

# LABYRINTH

THE FOREVER WAR, 2015 - ?



## COMBINED RULES & PLAYBOOK



Game Design  
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GMT Games LLC ©2020

*By Rodger B. MacGowan ©2020*

1918

# LABYRINTH

## THE FOREVER WAR, 2015 - ?

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### Game Component List

- One double-sided Sheet of Counters
- One 32-page Combined Rules & Playbook
- Four double sided Player Aid Cards (PAC): one new Forever War PAC and Three revised PACs
- 120 Event Cards

### Credits

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## 14.0 Introduction to Forever War

*Labyrinth: The Forever War, 2015 - ?* is a 1-2 player card-driven boardgame simulating at the strategic level the ongoing bid by Islamist extremists to impose their brand of religious rule on the Muslim world. It continues where *Labyrinth: Awakening, 2010 - ?* left off and adds new event cards and rules to cover the last five years of history. Since publication of *Labyrinth* and its first expansion, *Labyrinth: Awakening*, fans of the game have expressed a desire to update it based on more recent events, and a variety of event card ideas and variants have been freely shared online. This second expansion to the *Labyrinth* game series fulfills that continuing interest by providing up-to-date event cards and allows the game to continue to serve as an effective strategic level model of the ongoing struggles in the Muslim world.

*Labyrinth: The Forever War, 2015 - ?* uses the exact same rules, victory conditions, map, components, and charts as its predecessor game and expansion. Ownership of *Labyrinth* and *Labyrinth: Awakening* is required for play. If you are new to this series, become familiar with *Labyrinth* and *Labyrinth: Awakening* first, then add in the elements presented below to explore what has transpired in the five years since the publication of the base game and its first expansion. Follow the Set Up procedure as described in 3.0 of *Labyrinth*, with some minor exceptions as noted in the rules that follow.

The expansion is titled *Labyrinth: The Forever War, 2015 - ?* for the following reasons:

- This is a Ziploc expansion to be stored in the original game box and not a standalone game
- There may very well be other expansions to *Labyrinth* in the future along the same lines and these will be named based on their themes
- There has not been a break in the Global War on Terror (GWOT) that would signal something different (as in WWI & WWII); it is a continuation of the same struggle

This expansion will always be the third “chapter” of the *Labyrinth* base game, and we believe people may still call the games *I, II & III* informally (such as *Laby I, Laby II* and *Laby III*, or *L1, L2*, and *L3* or *Labyrinth, Labyrinth: Awakening* and *Labyrinth: Forever War*).

Key game terms found in the glossary of this expansion are listed in Initial Cap and are shown in bold the first time they are mentioned in the rules.

## 15.0 What's Changed?

### 15.1 New Rules

*Labyrinth: Forever War* includes new rules that modify the game slightly in order to represent the events and types of conflicts that transpired in the second half of the second decade of the 21st Century. All of the rules as presented serially in *Labyrinth* and *Labyrinth: Awakening* apply, except as amended below.

### 15.2 Other Changes

The following adjustments are required to play *Labyrinth: Forever War*.

**15.2.1 WMD and WMD Alert.** Pakistan continues to be a potential source of chemical and nuclear weapons for Jihadist acquisition, as do Syria and Iran, though Iran now seems to be the more likely source for this material. Of the six WMD markers in the game,

three continue to be available from the Pakistan Arsenal should it become Islamist Rule. Of the three remaining WMD markers, two should be set up in the Iran space (regardless of which side the country mat starts on or if it switches during play) and one in the Syria space at the start of the 2016 scenario. In the 2017 scenario Syria has 1 WMD in its box, while of the two that started in Iran, one has been removed and the other starts as an available Plot (see scenario rules for specifics). WMD are generally unavailable until the IRANIAN WITHDRAWAL, LOOSE CHEMICALS, and JCPOA events make these markers available to the Jihadist player or move them out of play. Just as with Pakistan, the WMDs in these two countries will also become available if the country comes under Islamist Rule. Each time the US player successfully Alerts or Reveals/Removes a WMD Plot for any reason, including from events and even if that WMD was not yet available to the Jihadist player, the US player gains +1 Prestige. The event JCPOA shows “(+1 Prestige if WMD removed; 11.3.1)” as a reminder of this rule and would thus *not* result in a net +2 Prestige for success.

**15.2.2 Country Mats.** Four countries are represented by **Country Mats** as specified below

**15.2.2.1 Iran.** Iran’s status is determined by which scenario is being played and can be either a Special Case country (4.4) with WMD capability (two WMD markers) as in the 2016 Scenario, or a regular Muslim country (0 WMD markers) as in the 2017 Scenario. Successful Jihadist play of the IRANIAN WITHDRAWAL or JCPOA events event will flip Iran over and it becomes a regular Muslim country for the rest of the game with the following characteristics: Resource Level 2, Oil Exporter, Shia-Mix Muslim country and mark as Fair Adversary. Any pieces or markers remain. If Iran becomes Neutral or Ally, remove any *Trade Embargo* marker. For the *Forever War* 2016, 2017 and Extended Campaign scenarios, while a regular Muslim country, the US may only perform Regime Change in Iran if it is Islamist Rule and the US is Hard, with a Prestige of High or Very High, and with the World at Hard 3. Play of the US *Regime Change Policy* event allows greater freedom of action.

*DESIGN NOTE: This treatment of Iran as a more difficult country to Regime Change lies in its size, complex religious and political make-up, and the need for broad support before any US President could seriously consider this as an option. This is borne out by the fact that even President Trump called off retaliatory air strikes against the country in 2019 when he feared regional and global repercussions.*

**15.2.2.2 Mali/Nigeria.** Use the same rules and setup as in *Awakening* (11.3.3.2 & .3).

**15.2.2.3 Syria.** Use the same rules and setup as in *Awakening* (11.3.3.4), but with only one WMD marker.

*DESIGN NOTE: The concern that Syria would become a major source for Jihadist WMD has diminished, largely through the efforts of the United Nations to destroy excess weapons and through the increase in stability across the country.*

**15.2.3 New Normal.** None of the card Events from the base game of *Labyrinth* or *Labyrinth: Awakening* are in play at the beginning of a game of *Labyrinth: Forever War*, unless specified in a scenario (such as ADVISORS #121). For example, although the Patriot Act has historically been passed enhancing travel restrictions to the United States, events such as these have become the “new normal,” giving the Jihadists time to counter them.

**15.2.3.1 New Cards Referencing Old Cards.** The Event cards created in *Labyrinth: Forever War* will sometimes reference cards created in the *Labyrinth* and *Labyrinth: Awakening*. This is intended in case a scenario, such as the Campaign Game, has both cards in play at the same time.

**15.2.4 New Cells.** Jihadist play of the AL-BAGHDADI event allows the placement of new Cells in the same manner as Training Camps event from *Awakening* (11.3.7). If the AL-BADGHDADI event marker has been removed by US play of this card, these Cells remain on the map until eliminated, but are not returned to the Track. If playing a campaign game, there is no additive effect of playing both TRAINING CAMPS and AL-BAGHDADI other than that the new added Cells are less likely to be removed as both markers would need to be removed to trigger their inability to return to the Track.

**15.2.5 Caliphate Capital.** Similar to the events listed in *Awakening* (11.3.8), the following event cards will allow the creation of a Caliphate Capital if not already on the board:

- 313 HAYAT TAHIR AL-SHAM (only in Syria if in Civil War)
- 321 UNGOVERNED SPACES (only in a Poor or Civil War country, or in any untested Muslim country in Africa)
- 338 ABU MUHAMMAD AL-SHIMALI (only by Jihadist play)
- 352 AL-BAGHDADI (only by Jihadist play)

Note that these cards are marked with a minaret icon in the top right corner.

Similar to the events listed in *Awakening* (11.3.8.4), while the Caliphate Capital is on the board, it blocks the play of the following *Forever War* events in any of the countries within the Caliphate:

- 243 Backlash
- 245 Green Movement 2.0
- 247 Nadia Murad
- 248 Patriotic Arab Democracies Movement
- 260 Imran Khan
- 268 Trump Trip
- 274 Government of National Accord
- 322 Amnesty International
- 350 UN Peace Envoy
- 353 Bowling Green Massacre

Each of these cards is marked with a “not in a Caliphate symbol” in the top right as a reminder that their play may be partially or entirely blocked by the creation of the Caliphate Capital.

**15.2.6 Civil War and Regime Change Cards.** Certain cards cause Civil War or allow Regime Change and can be retrieved from the Discard pile through the play of the #217 AGITATORS event from *Labyrinth: Awakening*. For player convenience, the cards from *Labyrinth: Forever War* that can cause a Civil War or allow Regime Change are listed below.

- 272 FIRE & FURY
- 277 REGIME CHANGE POLICY
- 293 ATTEMPTED COUP

**15.2.7 Jihadist Personality Cards.** Several event card reference Jihadist personalities. A Jihadist Personality is any unassociated card with a named person as the event title, typically with a portrait of that person, where US play of the event will result in the Removal of that card (the personality represented has been removed from play through combat action or capture). For example, AL-BAGHDADI

card #352 is a Jihadist Personality card. For convenience these cards are listed here for all three games:

**Labyrinth:**

- 110 ZARQAWI
- 111 ZAWAHIRI
- 112 BIN LADIN
- 115 HAMBALI
- 116 KSM

**Awakening:**

- 215 ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI
- 216 ABU SAYYAF (ISIL)
- 219 AYMAN AL-ZAWAHIRI
- 225 JIHADI JOHN
- 237 OSAMA BIN LADIN

**Forever War:**

- 328 HAFIZ SAEED KHAN
- 329 HAMZA BIN LADEN
- 338 ABU MUHAMMAD AL-SHIMALI
- 342 GULMUROD KHALIMOV
- 352 AL-BAGHDADI

**15.2.8 Trump Tweets Related Cards.** Several event cards require Trump Tweets to be “ON” and can be retrieved by #266 PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW. These include the following:

- 251-253 TRUMP TWEETS
- 254 US EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM
- 272 FIRE AND FURY
- 297 EARLY EXIT
- 305 PRESIDENTIAL WHISTLEBLOWER
- 336 US/NK SUMMIT
- 337 US BORDER CRISIS
- 348 TRAVEL BAN
- 355 FAKE NEWS
- 360 US-CHINA TRADE WAR

## 16.0 Solitaire Play

The following rules amend the Solitaire rules found in *Labyrinth: Awakening* and should be added to the relevant sections of the Solitaire rules (12.0 and 13.0) whenever playing *Labyrinth: Forever War*.

**12.3.13 Placing Plots.** If an Event specifies a range of Plot values, the Jihadist Bot selects the highest possible Plot value (WMD before 3).

**12.3.14 Placing and Removing Markers.** When placing Besieged Regime markers, the Jihadist Bot uses the Jihad column of the Priorities Table to select among possibilities. *EXCEPTION: If also placing a Cell(s), instead use 12.3.2 instructions.*

**13.3.10 Placing Advisors.** When instructed to place Advisors, the US Bot uses the Deploy To column of the Priorities Table.



## Scenarios

### LABYRINTH: FOREVER WAR, 2015 - ?

**Note:** All Cells are set up as Sleepers unless otherwise noted.

#### SET UP:

The sequence below shows how to prepare the game for a *Labyrinth: Forever War* scenario:

- 1) Place the Off Map Box mat below the Jihadist Funding Track.
- 2) Place the End of Turn mat on top of the End of Turn sequence printed on the board.
- 3) Place the 2nd End of Turn mat below the Philippines.
- 4) Place the Iran mat on top of Iran with the side indicated based on the Scenario being played.
- 5) Place the Mali mat green side up on the leftmost Lapsing Box.
- 6) Place the Nigeria mat on the rightmost Lapsing Box with the side indicated based on the Scenario being played.
- 7) Place the Syria mat green side up on top of Syria on the map.
- 8) Place 3 WMD markers in the Pakistani Arsenal Box.
- 9) Place 2 or 0 WMD markers in Iran based on the Scenario being played (replaces base game and *Awakening* setup).
- 10) Place 1 WMD marker in Syria (replaces base game and *Awakening* setup).
- 11) Place 15 Militia, 5 per box under the US Troops Track, for ease of counting and the 5 extra Cells off to the side. They enter per event or setup instruction.
- 12) Now follow instructions per Scenario and base game setup to include any deck adjustments.
- 13) Retrieve the necessary Player Aid Cards from *Labyrinth*.



*Labyrinth: Awakening* Event card #121



### Fall of ISIL (2016 Scenario)

[2016 - ?]

On June 29, 2014, ISIL proclaimed a worldwide caliphate based on an Islamic State carved out of swaths of Iraq and Syria, with its capital city in ar-Raqqah, Syria. Its forces moved forward quickly, capturing Mosul and threatening Baghdad and key areas of Syria. The Caliphate reached its territorial high water mark in late 2015. The Obama Doctrine called for local allies to bear the brunt of the fighting after being trained and organized by US Forces, and supported by an extra-heavy dose of Allied air power. Would this slow-but-methodical approach reclaim the recently lost territory or would the Jihadist juggernaut continue its unstoppable advance?

*DESIGN NOTE: The media uses ISIL and ISIS interchangeably. This expansion follows the US State Department standard of using ISIL as the name for the organization and the territory it seeks to control.*

#### Markers:

- **Prestige:** 5
- **GWOT:** US Hard; World Hard 2
- **Troops:** Low Intensity
- **Funding:** 6
- **Good Resources:** 0
- **Islamist Rule Resources:** 1
- **Fair/Good Countries:** 2
- **Poor/Islamist Rule Countries:** 3

#### Countries:

- **Nigeria (Country Mat on Muslim side):** Poor Ally, 1 Cell
- **Syria:** Fair Neutral, Civil War, 2 Militia, 4 Cells, Caliphate Capital marker (Cells are active), 1 WMD
- **Iraq:** Poor Neutral, Civil War, 2 Militia, 1 Advisors (#121), 3 Cells, Caliphate Country marker (Cells are active)
- **Gulf States:** Fair Ally, 2 Troops
- **Afghanistan:** Poor Ally, 2 Troops, 1 Cell
- **Iran (Country Mat on Special Case side):** 2 WMD
- **Benelux:** Hard

#### Events Already in Effect:

- 121 ADVISORS (from *Labyrinth: Awakening*; illustrated at left for ease of play)



### Trump Takes Command (2017 Scenario)

[2017 - ?]

Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States on January 20, 2017. It did not take long for him to exert his brand of leadership on the national and world stage. Immediate efforts were made to secure US borders from both illegal immigration and access by terrorists, which he conveniently lumped together. But he also followed the previous policies of the Obama administration to dismantle ISIL primarily from the air, with limited operations by special forces to lead regional allies in rolling the Caliphate back. ISIL was effectively disenfranchised as a land-holding power by November 2017, with Iran quickly becoming the new US target of choice in the Middle East. Trump did distance himself from Obama by pledging to withdraw from the Iran Nuclear Deal, which he accomplished on May 8, 2018, much to the dismay of his European allies. International tensions played out in Asia as well with both North Korea and China requiring lengthy negotiations. Europe displayed autonomy of action that frequently misaligned with US interests. And then there was Russia, which played its game both face-to-face and online.

Now it's your turn to be President. Can you use the machinery of state to do a better job than "The Donald," or will you be distracted in your pursuit of US Prestige and international security by numerous global and domestic adversaries?

#### Markers:

- **Prestige:** 6
- **GWOT:** US Hard; World Hard 1
- **Troops:** Low Intensity
- **Funding:** 4
- **Good Resources:** 2
- **Islamist Rule Resources:** 2
- **Fair/Good Countries:** Starts at 3
- **Poor/Islamist Rule Countries:** Starts at 5

#### Countries:

- **Nigeria (Country Mat on non-Muslim side):** Soft, 1 Cell
- **Algeria/Tunisia:** Good Neutral
- **Libya:** Poor Adversary, Civil War, 1 Cell
- **Lebanon:** Poor Adversary, 1 Cell
- **Syria:** Fair Neutral, Civil War, 2 Militia, 1 Cell, 1 Advisors (#121), 1 WMD
- **Iran (Country Mat on Muslim side):** Islamist Rule Adversary, 3 Cells, (1 WMD has been previously removed and 1 WMD starts already in the Available Plots box)
- **Gulf States:** Fair Ally, 2 Troops

- **Afghanistan:** Poor Ally, 2 Troops, 1 Militia, 1 Cell, 1 Reaction marker
- **Pakistan (Untested):** 2 Militia, 3 WMD
- **Yemen:** Poor Neutral, Civil War, 1 Militia, 2 Cells
- **Kenya/Tanzania:** Hard, Cadre
- Roll to place an Awakening marker in two different Random Muslim Countries (11.3.9)

#### Removed Cards:

- 303 IRANIAN WITHDRAWAL
- 340 EU BOLSTERS IRAN DEAL
- 343 JCPOA

#### Events already in Effect:

- 121 ADVISORS (from *Labyrinth: Awakening*; illustrated on previous page for ease of play)
- Place the Trump Tweets marker on the "On" side in the Events in Play Box. All of the TRUMP TWEETS event cards start shuffled in the card deck.

#### Special Rules:

- For end game scoring purposes only (2.3), the Jihadist player is awarded one bonus point (maximum) of Resources at Islamist Rule if no WMD have been used or Alerted during the game.



### Hillary Wins (2017 Alternative History Scenario)

[2017 - ?]

The year leading up to the 2016 Presidential election, in which Donald Trump steadily rose in prominence, was a year of disbelief as few foresaw his election as a possibility. This Scenario presumes that Hillary Clinton was able to rally in the last week of her campaign and finish strong. The Democratic Party now sets its agenda on the world stage.

Set up per 2017 scenario except:

#### Markers:

- **Prestige:** 6
- **GWOT:** US Soft, World Hard 2

#### Countries:

- **Russia:** Hard

#### Events already in Effect:

- Place the Trump Tweets marker on the "On" side in the Events in Play Box. All of the TRUMP TWEETS event cards start shuffled in the card deck. Anytime a TRUMP TWEETS card is played, add a +1 modifier to its resolution.



### Extended Campaign Game

[Sep 2001 – Dec 2020]

This scenario is for those who would like to have their game begin post 9/11 and continue through the Arab Spring and the period of Civil Wars that followed, then on into the Caliphate rise and fall, and the Trump presidency. This will provide a perspective on how the Muslim world changed during this time period as well as the level and focus of Western commitment over time. It also makes for good use as an instructional “game as history” teaching tool.

Setup per the “Let’s Roll” scenario, or any of the other scenarios from *Labyrinth*. Note, if using a later scenario start, be sure to remove those cards from the deck based on the year the scenario starts. Game length is three decks, one deck using the *Labyrinth* cards followed by one deck using the *Labyrinth: Awakening* cards (as blended in the Arab Spring Scenario) followed by one deck of *Labyrinth: Forever War*. The cards are never shuffled and the game will take approximately 20 turns to run to completion. Special Rules:

- Both Mali (Muslim country) and Nigeria (non-Muslim country) begin the game as active countries and players may operate in them normally from the beginning.
- Marked Events continue from one deck to the next; ignore the New Normal rule (11.3.5).
- Some Jihadist Personality Cards, such as BIN LADIN and OSAMA BIN LADIN, make an appearance in multiple decks. If the card is removed by US play, it may appear again in its second instance and is assumed to be a rising new leader of comparable ability and focus.
- The OPERATION NEPTUNE SPEAR and UNCONFIRMED cards may be used to retrieve any Unassociated Jihadist personality card (15.2.7) from either deck, not just those named on the cards.
- Since there are no reshuffles after the game commences, the discard deck will become quite large, and all of these cards are available to be retrieved by events such as OIL PRICE SPIKE.
- The *Labyrinth: Awakening* Expansion Rules, Player Aid Card & End of Turn sequence commence with the first card draw from Deck two. At that moment, place an Awakening marker in Algeria/Tunisia (if possible, otherwise in Random Muslim country) and Test if needed. Also place the Syria and Iran (Special case Muslim) country mats, and the Off Map Forces Box on the board. Place three WMD in their respective spaces in Syria (2) and Iran (1) (if more than six WMD are required because some have already been made available from the CTR countries, use the extra provided in the *Awakening* expansion).

- Iran can be the Subject of Regime Change any time it is a regular Muslim country and is Islam Rule and the US complies with the restrictions in 15.2.2.1.

**Victory Conditions:** Normal victory condition rules apply. **OPTIONAL:** If both players agree at the beginning of the scenario, play can continue even after one player has achieved a level of victory, so the full game can be experienced. In this case victory is instead determined at the end of play, with the winner being the player who was able to complete the greatest variety of his 3 victory conditions at any point during play.

*EXAMPLE: If the Jihadist player is able to complete a successful WMD Plot in the US, but not able to get 6 Resources of Islamist Rule or 15 Countries as Poor/Islamist at any point in the game, then he earns 1 point. If the US player is able to eliminate all Jihadist Cells, and have a total of 12 Resources as Good, and 15 countries as Fair/Good at some point in the game, then he would have 3 points and win the game. Players may earn a maximum of 1 point per condition (i.e., the triggering of 2 separate WMD in the US only earns 1 point, not 2). A tie in the number of points at the end of the scenario would then default to the standard end of game victory conditions (US wins if he has  $2x + 1$  Good Resources as are Islamist Rule).*

**Alternative History:** Shuffle all three decks (all 360 cards) together and play from one large deck with no reshuffle. The game ends when players can no longer refill their hands at the end of the turn (5.3.1). If the two US ELECTION cards come out in relatively close proximity to each other, it is assumed the sitting President has died and has been replaced by the Vice President, thus potentially causing a shift in policy. There are a total of 9 WMD available to the Jihadist player (3 in Pakistan, 3 from the CTR countries, 2 from Syria and 1 from Iran (use the extra provided in the *Awakening* expansion). The *Labyrinth: Awakening* Expansion Rules, Player Aid Card & End of Turn Sequence are used from the beginning and throughout the Campaign (i.e., only 6 regular Plots may be used/revealed per turn (11.3.2), Polarization & Convergence are in play (11.1.7-8), Civil Wars may be fought (11.2.1), Syria starts as a Shia-Mix country, etc.). Note that cards with titles which appear in multiple games are played per the text as written on their cards, and it’s possible for two events of the same name to be in play simultaneously, one from one deck and one from another, such as two NATO markers in the same or different countries. The play of TRAINING CAMPS or AL-BAGHDADI will bring additional Cells into play, but play of both has no additive effect other than having greater security that these additional Cells will continue to be available later. There is some loss of confidentiality when using cards from both the base game and the two expansions, as the card backs are a different color. Although this will be a distraction for some, it will be a great aid when sorting the cards later! Card backs are always open to inspection and it may become an element of skillful play to make use of that information. For players who desire more confidentiality, they can alternatively purchase card sleeves with opaque backs to conceal the game origin of their cards.

**Short Alternative History:** As above, but shuffle all three decks separately, then deal 40 cards from each deck, and shuffle all 120 of these cards together and play from this combined deck. If choosing to play more than a one-deck scenario, either play with this combined deck again, or deal another 40 cards from each games remaining, unused cards and make a new 120 card deck as above.



### Surge: The New Way Forward (2007 Scenario)

[Jan 2007 – Dec 2012]

Originally presented in *C3i* Nr. 31, this scenario presents a look at the US policy towards the insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2007 and 2012. This scenario uses no cards or components from *Forever War*, but is included so players who missed the *C3i* release have an opportunity to game this important period of the War on Terror.

On January 10, 2007, in a televised speech from the White House Library, President George W. Bush announced “a new way forward in Iraq”. He described the overall objective as establishing a “..unified, democratic federal Iraq that can govern itself, defend itself, and sustain itself, and is an ally in the War on Terror.” Although domestically unpopular at first, the deployment of five additional combat brigades—an increase of 20,000 plus combat Troops—had a telling effect. In retrospect, many critics of the surge agree that it was successful and paved the way for President Obama to later declare a form of victory and allow the withdrawal of all US Combat Troops from Iraq by December 18, 2011. A similar surge in Afghanistan was begun in 2010 with comparable results, though fearing a collapse into Civil War as in Iraq, US Troops in Afghanistan remained. A back drop to all of this was the contested presidential election in the US in 2008, Iran in 2009 and the Arab Spring in much of the rest of the Muslim world in 2010-2012. Can the US conclude its two Regime Change operations begun shortly after 9/11 by destroying Al-Qaeda in Iraq, and guide the protests of the Arab Spring away from extremist influence, or will Jihadist elements intervene to sow chaos in the new “puppet governments” and steer the popular street movements towards the replacement of unpopular regimes with Islamist Rule?

This short scenario explores how the Muslim world changed in the time period covered by the end of *Labyrinth* and the beginning of *Awakening*. It serves as a transitional teaching tool to introduce *Awakening* concepts to seasoned *Labyrinth* players, and to teach new players the game system. For those desiring a longer scenario covering the entire period since 9/11, see the Extended Campaign Game on page 7 of the *Forever War* Rulebook.

#### Markers:

- **Prestige:** 4
- **GWOT:** US Hard; World Hard 1
- **Troops:** War

- **Funding:** 6
- **Good Resources:** 0
- **Islamist Rule Resources:** 0
- **Fair/Good Countries:** 4
- **Poor/Islamist Rule Countries:** 5

#### Countries:

- **Libya:** Poor Adversary
- **Syria:** Fair Adversary, 1 Cell
- **Iraq:** Poor Ally; 5 Troops, 3 Cells, Regime Change (tan), MOQTADA AL-SADR (#54), AL-ANBAR (#58)
- **Iran:** 1 Cell
- **Saudi Arabia:** Poor Ally, 1 Cell
- **Gulf States:** Fair Ally, 2 Troops
- **Pakistan:** Fair Ally. 1 Cell, FATA (#80)
- **Afghanistan:** Poor Ally, 3 Troops, 2 Cells, 1 Aid Marker, Regime Change (tan), NATO (#41)
- **Somalia:** Poor Neutral, 1 Cell, Besieged Regime
- **Indonesia/Malaysia:** Fair Neutral, 1 Cell
- **United Kingdom:** Hard
- **Scandinavia:** Soft

**Deck Preparation:** Game length is one deck (1st bullet of 3.3), with half the cards coming from *Labyrinth* and half from *Awakening* as listed on the reverse. Shuffle both half decks individually, and then stack the cards from *Labyrinth* on top of the cards from *Awakening*. The cards are never shuffled again and the game will take approximately seven turns to run to completion. It is recommended that players pull the four event cards listed as “in play” in the countries above and set them aside as an easy reference.

#### Special Rules:

- Marked Events continue from one half deck to the next; ignore the New Normal rule (11.3.5).
- Some Jihadist personality cards, such as BIN LADIN and OSAMA BIN LADIN, make an appearance in both decks. If the first card is removed by US play, it may appear again in its second instance and is assumed to be a rising new leader of comparable ability and focus.
- The OPERATION NEPTUNE SPEAR and UNCONFIRMED cards may be used to retrieve any Unassociated Jihadist personality card from either half deck, not just those named on the cards.
- All of cards from both half decks are available to be retrieved by events such as OIL PRICE SPIKE.
- The *Awakening* Expansion Rules, Player Aid Card and End of Turn sequence commence with the first *Awakening* card drawn (tan background). At that moment, place an Awakening marker in a Random Muslim Country (11.3.9) if possible, and Test if needed. Also place the Syria (Shia mix Muslim Country), Iran (Special case Muslim) Mali (Muslim Country) and Nigeria (non-Muslim Country) mats, and the Off Map Forces Box on the board. Also commence turn-based Plot limitations (11.3.2), Polarization (11.1.7), Convergence (11.1.8), and Disengagement (11.1.5).
- If required to draw a card at random from a hand with cards from both half decks, mix-up your hand and have your opponent call-out a random number from the set of available cards.



#	<i>From Labyrinth</i>	#	<i>From Awakening</i>	#	<i>FROM LABYRINTH</i>	#	<i>FROM AWAKENING</i>
1	BACKLASH	123	HUMANITARIAN AID	68	JEMAAH ISLAMIYA	186	BOKO HARAM
10	SPECIAL FORCES	124	PEARL ROUNDABOUT	70	LASHKAR-E-TAYYIBA	190	MARTYRDOM OPERATION
12	AL-AZHAR	127	REAPER	72	OPIUM	191	MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD
13	ANBAR AWAKENING	128	REAPER	73	PIRATES	195	TALIBAN RESURGENT
15	ETHIOPIA STRIKES	130	SPECIAL FORCES	74	SCHENGEN VISAS	196	TRAINING CAMPS
16	EURO-ISLAM	131	ARAB SPRING "FALLOUT"	77	AL JAZERRA	197	UNCONFIRMED
18	INTEL COMMUNITY	134	CIVIL RESISTANCE	78	"AXIS OF EVIL"	198	US ATROCITIES
19	KEMALIST REPUBLIC	135	DELTA / SEALS	79	CLEAN OPERATIVES	199	US CONSULATE ATTACKED
20	KING ABDULLAH	136	FACTIONAL INFIGHTING	81	FOREIGN FIGHTERS	200	CRITICAL MIDDLE
21	"LET'S ROLL!"	139	INT'L BANKING REGIME	82	JIHADIST VIDEOS	202	CYBER WARFARE
22	MOSSAD & SHIN BET	140	MAERSK ALABAMA	83	KASHMIR	203	DAY OF RAGE
24	PREDATOR	141	MALALA YOUSAFZAI	89	MARTYRDOM OPERATION	205	ERDOGAN EFFECT
25	PREDATOR	143	OBAMA DOCTRINE	90	QUAGMIRE	206	FRIDAY OF ANGER
28	SHARIA	146	SHARIA	91	REGIONAL AL-QAEDA	207	JV / COPYCAT
29	TONY BLAIR	148	TAHRIR SQUARE	93	TALIBAN	208	KINDER – GENTLER
30	UN NATION BUILDING	153	FACEBOOK	95	WAHHABISM	210	SECTARIAN VIOLENCE
32	BACK CHANNEL	154	FACEBOOK	97	FATWA	211	SMARTPHONES
33	BENAZIR BHUTTO	160	OP. NEPTUNE SPEAR	100	HIZB UT-TAHRIR	212	SMARTPHONES
35	HIJAB	161	PRISM	101	KOSOVO	213	SMARTPHONES
36	INDO-PAKISTANI TALKS	162	SCAF	103	HIZBALLAH	214	3 CUPS OF TEA
40	MASS TURNOUT	163	STATUS QUO	105	IRAN	219	AYMAN AL-ZAWAHIRI
42	PAKISTANI OFFENSIVE	164	BLOODY THURSDAY	106	JAYSH AL-MAHDI	220	DARAA
45	SAFER NOW	168	IEDS	107	KURDISTAN	221	FLYPAPER
46	SISTANI	170	THEFT OF STATE	108	MUSHARRAF	223	IRANIAN ELECTIONS
49	AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISLAMI	172	AL-SHABAAB	111	ZAWAHIRI	227	POPULAR SUPPORT
50	ANSAR AL-ISLAM	175	CENSORSHIP	112	BIN LADIN	228	POPULAR SUPPORT
52	IEDS	176	CHANGE OF STATE	113	DARFUR	229	PRISONER EXCHANGE
53	MADRASSAS	177	GAZA ROCKETS	118	OIL PRICE SPIKE	230	SELLOUT
60	BHUTTO SHOT	179	KOREAN CRISIS	119	SALEH	237	OSAMA BIN LADIN
63	GAZA WAR	185	AL-MALIKA	120	US ELECTION	239	TRUCE

- The following *Awakening* rules are not in play for this scenario (ignore any references to them on the event cards):
  - o 11.2 Civil War
  - o 11.2.4 Militia
  - o 11.3.8 Caliphate
- Use only the three WMD placed in the Pakistani Arsenal; the rest of the WMD are not in play.
- For end game scoring only (2.3), the Jihadist player is awarded one bonus point (maximum) of Resources at Islamist Rule if Iraq and/or Afghanistan are in Regime Change or Islamist Rule.

**Alternative History:** Shuffles both half decks (all 120 cards) together and play from one large deck from the beginning. The *Awakening* Expansion Rules, Player Aid Card and End of Turn Sequence are used from the beginning and throughout the scenario, as well as the other modifications described above.

**Solitaire Rules:** Use *Awakening* Bots from the beginning of the scenario. Follow 12.2, even if *Awakening* cards are stacked on top of *Labyrinth* cards during the draw phase between half decks.

*This scenario originally published in...*



## First Time Into The Maze: Beginner Strategy in Labyrinth: Awakening

by Trevor Bender

As the title suggests, this article covers US and Jihadist strategies in Awakening. Players will find these strategies broadly applicable to Forever War as well, although each of them will require a new awareness of the focus of the Forever War deck and scenarios. For example, the placement of Awakening and Reaction markers is more constrained in Forever War, as the pace of reform in the Muslim world has slowed in the period the game depicts. Nonetheless, the principles discussed in this article are useful to both new and experienced players, and should be kept in mind during any game of Awakening or Forever War.

The Awakening expansion to Labyrinth was released in September, 2016, and added event cards and rules to cover the period 2010 through 2015. It has been exciting for me as the designer to see player comments on-line as they explore the rules and test the Bots. Many players commented that their goal in this exploration phase is to grasp the mechanics of the expansion while experiencing for the first time the effects of the near-current events included in the deck; in this exercise, game strategy is of secondary importance. With approximately 50 Awakening games under my belt during design and play test, I decided write a brief article on strategic considerations as a primer for new players to consider as they advance their level of play.

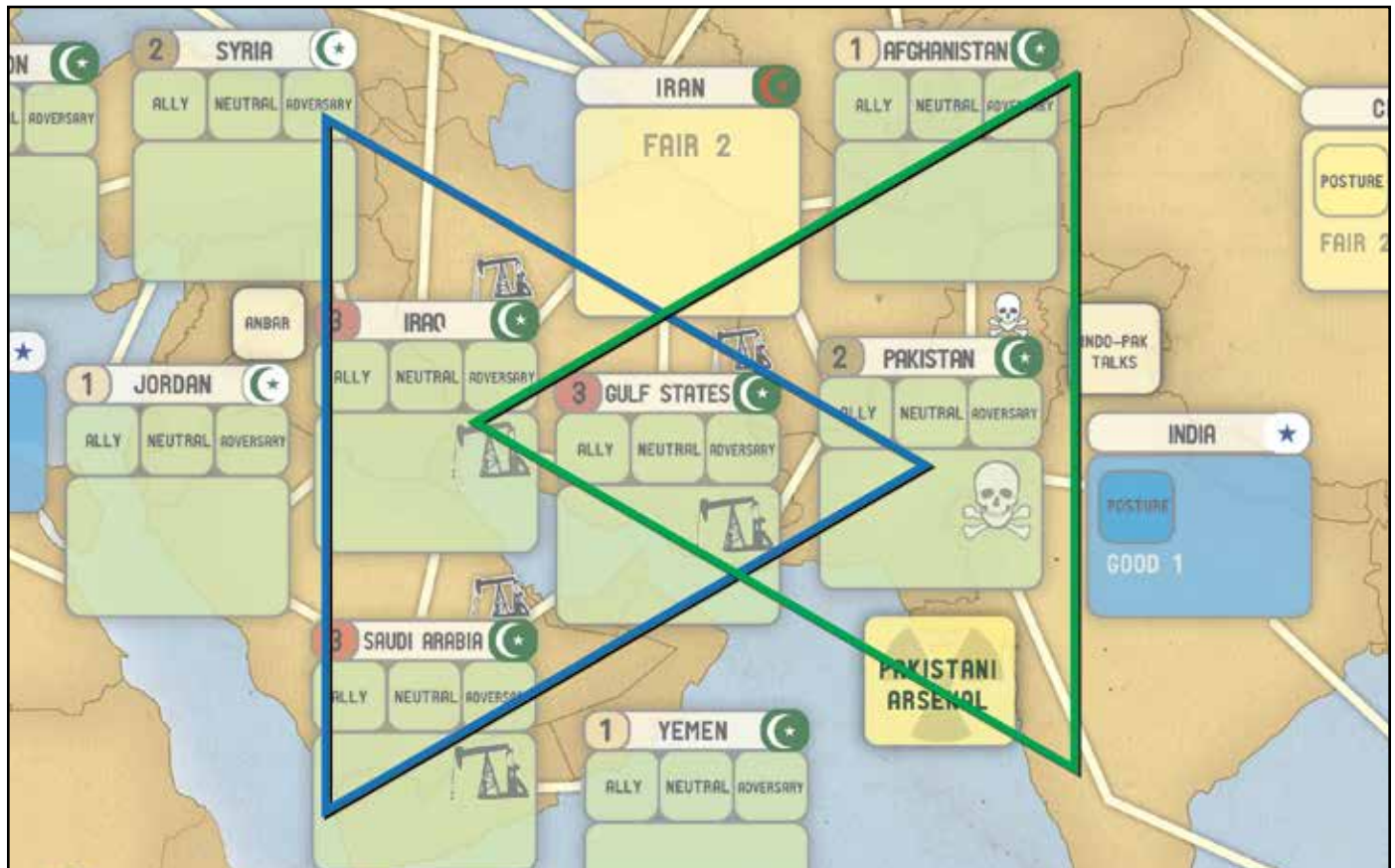
Strategy involves the application of available resources to achieve stated objectives. Player overall objectives are the Vic-

tory Conditions (VC), which remain unchanged from *Labyrinth* (2.0). Resources include Event Cards in hand, Awakening, Reaction and other makers which provide modifiers to other game operations, and wooden pieces, the primary military units in the game. These resources are applied through the geographic constraints imposed by the map, so we will begin our discussion there.

Each side has three ways to win in *Labyrinth*, but the typical path to victory for both sides is called a Resource win. The US player must have a number of Good countries totaling 12 or more Resource points, while the Jihadist can achieve the same with 6 Resource points at Islamist Rule, including two of these countries being adjacent. Based on their beginning areas of strength, a quick look at the map reveals two geographic regions where both sides will typically start to try and control, with these two "Strategic Triangles" intersecting in the Gulf States.

A US Resource strategy usually involves making Gulf States Good, then with the accompanying +1 bonus on War of Ideas (WOI – 7.2.1) for an adjacent Good Ally country, trying to do the same in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Success in all three of these countries will provide nine of the 12 Resource points required for victory, with the other three possibly attainable in Egypt, Indonesia/Malaysia, or a combination of two other locations such as Algeria/Tunisia and Libya or Mali, or Turkey and Afghanistan for example.

A jihadist Resource strategy will start in Afghanistan, with its Auto Recruit capability (8.2.3), which allows the placement of Cells without the need for a success die roll, and then branch out to a full scale assault on Pakistan. Once Pakistan goes IR,



"Strategic Triangles" in Labyrinth: Awakening

the Jihadist will have three WMD as available, and auto success recruiting there, with the ability to branch out adjacently either into Gulf States or Indonesia/Malaysia. Toppling one of those 2 states will give 5 IR resources, with immediate victory coming from play of an OIL PRICE SPIKE event, which makes Oil Exporter Indonesia or Gulf States immediately worth 4 points, or by the creation of a Caliphate, which adds 1 resource at IR (11.3.8), or by taking out some other one-point country, with Libya, Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan sometimes becoming easy targets.



These initial geographic approaches of course assume a static board situation,

which in *Awakening*, never is. The placement of Awakening and Reaction markers, often times by random occurrences, will change the board situation regularly such that traditional paths to victory may be denied or become cost prohibitive, while other paths will present themselves for exploration and possible exploitation. Additionally, one's opponent, whether human or Bot, will try to take away your hard earned success either through Regime Change (US) or Plots and Major Jihad (Jihadist).

Now that we know where we would like to go, how do we get there? The primary resource of the game is the Event Cards. These provide Operation Points or Event effects that help one achieve or deny their opponent the VC. Players will begin their turn by drawing seven to nine Event Cards, based on their position on the Troops Track (US) or Funding Track (Jihadist). A key objective is to try and maximize the number of cards you draw each turn in order to provide more options and operations. Some cards will allow the drawing of additional cards, thus extending your turn. The ability to play cards without an opponent's response at the end of a turn can be decisive in a close game!

32 Event Cards allow for the placement or removal of Awakening and/or Reaction markers in the game expansion. These markers largely represent the street protestors and other organizers that were so common in this period, and who indirectly helped or hindered the other operations in the game. A difference of two or more markers in a Muslim country can cause it to slowly over time start shifting to one camp or the other through the Polarization rule (11.1.7). In many ways, especially early in a scenario, the Awakening and Reaction markers are a currency that are more valuable in achieving one's VC than Troops, Militia and Cells, so consider carefully before spending one of these card types for Ops.



Nevertheless, the wooden pieces are also instrumental in executing one's strategy, especially in the late game. With more of these pieces contained in the Awakening expansion (+5 Cells and +15 Militia), there are more options for their use. In addition to fortifying areas from enemy activity (it takes five more Cells than Troops + Militia to launch a Major Jihad and five more Troops + Militia than Cells do perform WOI in a Regime Change country), these pieces are also the primary combatants in Civil Wars. At the end of each turn, they inflict Attrition (11.2.5) casualties on the opposing side by rolling a die less than or equal to the number that are there. If a side is not contesting a Civil War in strength, then that country may slide towards the opponent's faction similar to Polarization above. Try to dominate the Civil Wars when you can, and if unable to do that, at least maintain a contesting force in them to delay that country's eventual fall until after you have already won the game!

So there you have it. A brief primer on developing a Resource based strategy for either side in *Labyrinth: Awakening*. In playtests of the Arab Spring one-deck tournament scenario, it was not uncommon to see players pursue this basic Resource strategy and win as the Jihadists by turn 4 or 5, or as the US in turns 6 or 7. There are other paths towards victory of course and variations on this theme, but learning this simple approach will improve your game play in the maze!



This article was originally published in "Inside GMT Games" <http://www.insidegmt.com/2016/10/first-time-into-the-maze-beginner-strategy-in-labyrinth-awakening/>

## Designer's Notes

Much has happened in the Muslim World since the end of the *Labyrinth: Awakening* event deck (roughly 2015), with a number of sub-themes across the globe that give rise to a new narrative that has been playing out over the last five years; these include:

- Growth and then Collapse of the physical Islamic State Caliphate
- Increased Iranian/Saudi Arabian Rivalry and Proxy War
- Government Repression of Expression (Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, etc.)
- Increased Women's Rights Activism across the region
- Increased Russian and other International involvement in the Middle East
- Incredible violence outside the Middle East from ISIL and others across Europe, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and elsewhere
- Impact of President Donald Trump and his personality on US Foreign Policy
- Continued activity of African Jihadists
- Plight of International Refugees
- Emerging Main-Power Rivalry between the US, Russia, China, EU and the UK
- US ceding some degree of autonomy in portions of the globe in exchange for greater regional security

Except for the first item on this list, none of these have been fully resolved, though some have made movements in one direction or the other. *Labyrinth: Forever War* is designed to explore each of the above issues as part of the larger conflict between the West and Jihadist elements, which continues to this day, even if at a lower intensity than seen in the previous 15 years.

*Labyrinth: Forever War* comes with four scenarios, one of which can be linked to the previous games to allow up to 360 event card combinations for lots of game variety and discussion. Additionally, another scenario linking *Awakening* with *Forever War* is planned similar to the *Labyrinth: Surge, The Way Forward* [2007 Scenario] published in C3i Magazine Nr31, and included herein on page 8-9.

Much of the difference in this expansion is that US Foreign Policy appears to have abandoned Regime Change as a real option in its tool box. No doubt this is due to high costs in both casualties and treasure experienced during the previous interventions in both Afghanistan and Iraq. This shift in US policy, where US forces would have otherwise intervened, has left large swaths of the Middle East in an ungoverned state, including Libya, Yemen, and parts of Nigeria, Syria, Iraq and other areas.

The global struggle has also changed with the demise of the Caliphate, with Iran becoming the predominant opponent of US in the region. Thus, in the 2017 Scenario, Iran starts as an Islamist Rule country and the US player may only perform a Regime Change operation there if the US is Hard with High or Very High Prestige, and the World is Hard Level 3. Despite the bellicose talk in recent years, the likelihood the US would actually perform a Regime Change operation there is very small and thus the additional restrictions in the game.

Much of the reason for caution in US Foreign Policy decision making has to do with the high costs experienced in prosecuting the Global War on Terror (GWOT). According to an annual report from the Costs of War project at Brown University's Watson Institute

of International and Public Affairs, the total costs of the GWOT include the following:

- The US will have spent nearly \$6 trillion on the war on terror by the end of fiscal year 2019
- Approximately a half million people have been killed in the United States' post-9/11 wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan - including nearly 7,000 US troops
- The US is conducting counterterrorism operations in 76 countries

Despite the exorbitant costs, the campaign has had an impact on the adversary as well. No 9/11 (WMD) style terrorist attacks have occurred in the US or anywhere in the Western World for that matter. Additionally, certain countries that were considered Adversary are now more closely aligned with the US, including Iraq and Afghanistan. During the time frame covered by the *Labyrinth: Forever War* expansion (2015 to present), the physical Islamic State has collapsed, and no new nations have fallen into Civil War. Governance has improved in other areas too, with both Syria and Nigeria in the process of stabilizing, though the conflicts in Yemen and Libya are still unresolved and the former is growing to replace Syria as the country with the current greatest threat to the human condition within its borders. *Forever War* explores all of the above in a competitive political-military simulation, and as a current events game, perhaps helps each of us to better understand these ongoing and evolving global rivalries.

The idea to begin a *Laby III* deck came about shortly after the publication of *Awakening*. At the time that game was published in September 2016, there was still much activity in the countries covered in this game, in particular ISIL was a major threat and the Civil Wars in Syria and Yemen were far from resolved. I realized what we had here was evolving into a current events game that could be updated cyclically, with a five year cycle seeming appropriate. I of course paid attention to events in the region, took down notes, and then designed the first 20 cards in May of 2017. Other cards came soon after that, working at a relaxed pace of about one new card every week or two. By the summer of 2019 the deck had solidified into pretty much its current form, with PRESIDENTIAL WHISTLEBLOWER being the last card added in October of 2019.

One of the challenges we faced was how to model interactions between non-Muslim countries, which were even more pivotal in this time period than in the previous two games, to include major rivalries between China and the US, North Korea and the US, and Russia and the UK. Although not technically tied to GWOT, these global interactions did serve as distractions to the US in concluding the ongoing war on terror. The solution to this puzzle was to use Posture for non-Muslim countries as an alternative way to demonstrate misalignment or event hostility within this game, such as comparing the postures of China to the US or Russia to the UK, etc. We saw this to a degree in other cards in the system, but it became standard in the *Forever War* expansion and is a key metric for multiple cards, thus making War of Ideas in non-Muslim countries even more important.

Will the game series continue with another themed deck in five more years? As this expansion title suggests, that eventuality is very likely.

Trevor Bender

## Labyrinth: Forever War Event Card Background

*Forever War* provides 120 new event cards to represent the ongoing conflict in the Muslim world roughly from 2015 through 2019, to include the rise and fall of the physical territory controlled by the Islamic State, and the first three years of the Trump Presidency. Presented below are historical context and some design considerations to the event cards contained in this, the second expansion to *Labyrinth*. As many of these events are still unfolding, much of the content describing them comes from Wikipedia, and was current at the time of publication. The cards start with #241, as events #1-120 were previously described in the *Labyrinth* Playbook and #121-240 were contained in the *Awakening* expansion (some of the previous 240 cards are referenced here for comparison, so you may want to have those handy as well while you read this). You may enjoy this article best by getting your cards out and placing them in numerical order to read-along with the narrative. Note that the cards are listed in the following order: US, Jihadist, Unassociated, then by Ops value, then alphabetical by title.



**241. ABDEL FATTAH EL-SISI:** An Egyptian politician who is the sixth and current President of Egypt, and has been in office since 2014. Field Marshal Sisi was born in Cairo and after joining the military, held a post in Saudi Arabia before enrolling in the Egyptian Army's Command and Staff College. In 1992, Sisi trained at the Joint Services Command and Staff College at Watchfield, Oxfordshire, in the United Kingdom, and then in 2006 trained at the United States Army War College in

Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Sisi served as a mechanized infantry commander and then as director of military intelligence. After the Egyptian revolution of 2011 and election of Mohamed Morsi to the Egyptian presidency, Sisi was appointed Minister of Defence by Morsi on 12 August 2012, replacing the Mubarak-era Hussein Tantawi. As Minister of Defence, and ultimately Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Sisi was involved in the military coup that removed Morsi from office on July 3, 2013 (see card #162 SCAF), in response to June 2013 Egyptian protests, called a revolution by its proponents. He dissolved the Egyptian Constitution of 2012 and proposed, along with leading opposition and religious figures, a new political road map, which included the voting for a new constitution, and new parliamentary and presidential elections. Morsi was replaced by an interim president, Adly Mansour, who appointed a new cabinet. The interim government cracked down on the Muslim Brotherhood and its Islamist supporters in the months that followed, and later on certain liberal opponents of the post-Morsi administration. On 14 August 2013, police carried out the August 2013 Rabaa massacre, killing hundreds of civilians and wounding thousands, leading to international criticism. On 26 March 2014, in response to calls from supporters to run for presidency, Sisi retired from his military career, announcing that he would run as a candidate in the 2014 presidential election. The election, held between 26 and 28 May, featured one sole opponent, Hamdeen Sabahi, saw 47% participation by eligible voters, and resulted in Sisi winning in a landslide victory with more than 97% of the vote. Sisi was sworn into office as President of Egypt on 8 June 2014. Sisi's government has given the Egyptian military un-

checked power, and some media reports have labeled him a dictator and a strongman, comparing him to Egypt's former dictators. In the 2018 presidential election, Sisi faced only nominal opposition.

**242. AVENGER:** The Avenger follows on the tail of the Predator and Reaper. This design, also from General Atomics, incorporates Stealth characteristics, a jet engine, and an internal weapons bay. The ER version can also loiter for up to 24 hours, and can deploy across oceans and continents without airlift.

**243. BACKLASH:** Some of the success of ISIL and others has been mollified by the extreme violence they portray. The Backlash experienced whether organized or simply in the hearts and minds of would be followers is real and limits the growth of these extremist organizations over time. This is the same card as seen in *Labyrinth* (#1) and *Awakening* (#122).

**244. FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE:** (FID) is a term used by the militaries of some countries, including the United States, France, and the United Kingdom, to describe an integrated and synchronized, multi-disciplinary (and often joint, interagency, and international as well) approach to combating actual or threatened insurgency in a foreign state. This foreign state is known as the Host Nation (HN) under US (and generally accepted NATO) doctrine. The term counter-insurgency is more commonly used worldwide than FID. FID involves military deployment of counter-insurgency specialists. According to the US doctrinal manual, Joint Publication 3-22: Foreign Internal Defense (FID), those specialists preferably do not themselves fight the insurgents. Doctrine calls for a close working relationship between the HN government and security forces with outside diplomatic, information, intelligence, military, economic, and other specialists. The most successful FID actions suppress actual violence; when combat operations are needed, HN security forces take the lead, with appropriate external support, the external support preferably being in a noncombat support and training role only. An integral part of US positioning in the Global War on Terror, especially as groups like ISIL spread into other territories, was to train company sized units to train local forces who would form the cadre of soldiers to learn advanced COIN tactics. This is especially true in Africa, where nearly every nation involved in the GWOT has a relationship with the US Military.

**245. GREEN MOVEMENT 2.0:** A series of public protests occurred in various cities throughout Iran beginning on 28 December 2017 and continuing into 2018. The first protest took place in Mashhad, Iran's second-largest city by population, initially focused on the economic policies of the country's government; however, as protests spread throughout the country, their scope expanded to include political opposition to the theocratic regime of Iran and its longtime Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei. According to *The Washington Post*, protesters' chants and attacks on government buildings upended a system that had little tolerance for dissent, with some demonstrators even shouting "Death to the dictator!" — referring to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — and asking security forces to join them. The protests mark the most intense domestic challenge to the Iranian government since the 2009 presidential election protests (see #223 IRANIAN ELECTIONS). However, these protests differ from the original Green movement in participants, causes, goals, and chants. While some analysts suggest

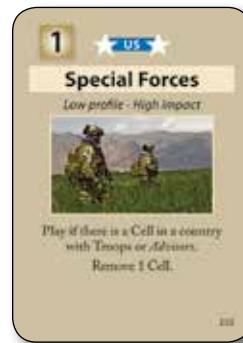
the protests are a result of unfavorable economic policies adopted by the administration of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, others say that dissatisfaction with the theocratic regime and the Supreme Leader are the actual causes of the unrest. Rouhani acknowledged on 8 January 2018 that “people had economic, political and social demands”. According to Iranian authorities, protests turned violent in some parts of the country, and Iranian state television reported that the protesters attacked police stations and military personnel and installations, and started fires. As of 2 January 2018, at least twenty-one protesters and two security force members had been killed. Additionally, 3,700 demonstrators were arrested according to Mahmoud Sadeghi, a reformist lawmaker from Tehran, though official figures were much lower. On 5 January 2018, four special rapporteurs of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights urged the Iranian government to acknowledge and respect rights of protesters and end its blocking of the Internet. In a backlash against the protests, thousands of government supporters staged pro-government rallies in more than a dozen cities across Iran shortly after. The Iranian Fuel Protests occurred in November 2019 following a 200% increase in the price of petrol and resulted in an estimated 143 deaths and an government driven internet black-out that lasted 6 days.

**246. HOLIDAY SURPRISE:** On 26 December 2018, President Trump visited with U.S military personnel serving in Western Iraq accompanied by First Lady Melania Trump. This was the president’s first trip to a U.S. combat zone and came as a complete surprise to the media and other observers, partly because of the partial government shut down where he had sequestered himself inside the White House rather than participate in his family’s Christmas plans at Mar-a-Lago as a protest for Congress not giving him a stop-gap spending bill that would include \$5.7 Billion in funding for the Border Wall.

**247. NADIA MURAD:** Born in 1993 and is an Iraqi Yazidi human rights activist who now lives in Germany. In 2014 she was kidnapped from her hometown Kojo and held by the Islamic State for three months. In 2018, she and Denis Mukwege were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for “their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict”. She is the first Iraqi to be awarded a Nobel prize. Murad is the founder of Nadia’s Initiative, an organization dedicated to “helping women and children victimized by genocide, mass atrocities, and human trafficking to heal and rebuild their lives and communities”. She published a book late in 2017 describing her captivity and flight from Mosul and subsequent escape from slavery.

**248. PATRIOTIC ARAB DEMOCRACIES MOVEMENT:** Many Patriotic and/or Democratic movements have sprung up amongst the countries of the Middle East at various times. Some of these have been immediately suppressed by monarchs or dictators intent on keeping power. Others flowered in the Arab Spring and were later squashed by reactionary Jihadist movements or overwhelmed by Civil War. Still others have championed particular freedoms, such as Women’s rights or liberation from colonial or despotic rule. Examples of these movements include the Egyptian Patriotic Movement, various democratic parties in Tunisia, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, and fledgling parties that have sprung up elsewhere. One perceived weakness is the sheer number of democratic movements and how small and fractured they are, resembling the tribal or clan based structures from which they sprung, and never approaching the mobilizing strength of the Republican or Democratic parties of the United States.

**249. SAUDI AIR STRIKES:** The Saudi intervention in Yemen occurred during the previous game expansion and is covered by the GULF UNION event card (#156). Yet, the struggle continues to this day. This event represents the near daily presence of the Saudi Air Force in combating the Iranian backed elements in Yemen. It also represents the immense logistical effort by the US to keep the Saudi aircraft, most of which are of US manufacture, both available through spare parts, munitions and aerial refueling. In the wake of Jamal Khashoggi’s murder in October 2018 (see card #315), the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis called for a ceasefire in Yemen within 30 days followed by UN-initiated peace talks. Pompeo has asked Saudi Arabia and the UAE to stop their airstrikes on populated areas in Yemen. President of the International Rescue Committee David Miliband called the US announcement as “the most significant breakthrough in the war in Yemen for four years”. The U.S. continued its support of the Saudi-led intervention with weapons sales and intelligence sharing, but on November 10, 2018, the U.S. announced it would no longer refuel coalition aircraft operating over Yemen.



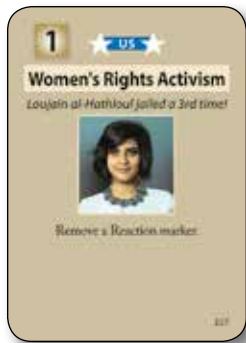
**250. SPECIAL FORCES:** Over time the US commitment of combat troops toward operations has shifted to a smaller and smaller foot print. Eventually, Special Forces replaced front line troops, and even started using their armored vehicles, as in the 400 troop intervention in eastern Syria. Supported by Marine Artillery Batteries, and an abundance of air power, these forces have galvanized the support of Kurds and other local allies in dismantling the Islamic State and have shown a degree of firepower that far outweighs their footprint. It is estimated that in 2018 upwards of 80% of the front line US troops facing Jihadist adversaries are Special Forces trained.

**251.-253. TRUMP TWEETS:** More so than any other President, Donald Trump has gone directly to the public with his personal feelings through the use of Twitter. More often than not his tweets seem unstructured or reactionary. But looking back and with hindsight, his tweets appear to be part of a designed effort to forecast his international plans. This card, like SMART PHONES (#211-213) in *Awakening*, is a key prerequisite to allowing (or stopping) the play of ten other cards (see list at 15.2.8). This is also the only card in *Forever War* to appear more than once!

**254. US EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM:** The US Embassy opened at its Jerusalem location on 14 May 2018, the 70th anniversary of the creation of the modern State of Israel. It was relocated from its previous site in Tel Aviv by the Trump Administration and is situated in the Arnona section of the US Consulate, which has been in Jerusalem for some time. The move came 23 years after the passage of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 23 October 1995, which set a deadline of 31 May 1999, for the move. The Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations had all deferred the relocation. Some claim that the decision to shift the US embassy to this area is tantamount to the United States recognizing Israeli sovereignty over land that it captured in the Six-Day War in 1967. The Embassy’s opening coincided with the bloodiest day of the 2018 Gaza border protests, with more than 57 Palestinians killed (see card #311). Note, the event card generally has negative impacts for the US player, but will frequently see play as the Jihadist player will invoke it during their action phase.

**255. WESTERN ARMS SALES:** The ability to sell arms to their allies in the Middle East not only fortifies the defense of those nations but also increases resources and access for US interests in the region.

**256. WHITE HELMETS:** The White Helmets, officially known as Syria Civil Defense (SCD) is a volunteer organization that operates in parts of rebel-controlled Syria and in Turkey. Formed in 2014 during the Syrian Civil War, the majority of their activity in Syria consists of medical evacuation, urban search and rescue in response to bombings, evacuation of civilians from danger areas, and essential service delivery. As of April 2018, the organization claims to have saved over 114,000 lives, with 204 White Helmet volunteers losing their lives in the process. They claim impartiality in the Syrian conflict. The organization has been the target of a disinformation campaign by supporters of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Russia-sponsored media organizations such as RT, with unsubstantiated claims of close ties with terrorist activities and other conspiracy theories.



**257. WOMAN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISM:** Ranked number three in the list of top 100 most influential Arab women, Loujain al-Hathloul has been detained on a number of occasions for speaking out for women's rights and in particular against the House of Saud for its reluctance to modernize, despite progress made by other middle eastern countries. Although in jail with other fellow activists at the time, she was influential in campaigning for the right of women to be drive automobiles, which the Kingdom adopted on 24 June 2018. She has also rallied to abolish the male guardianship system. Other woman's rights issues being contested in various countries across the Middle East at this time include the ability to perform on stage or in film, to hold a job, to get a full education and to engage completely in the political process to include holding all levels of office.

**258. 75TH RANGER REGIMENT:** Responsible for opening the door in so many Cold War and Post Cold War operations, this elite unit led the long awaited full conventional response to ISIL in Syria when the unit crossed the border near Manbij in early March 2017 with the US banner flying proud on Stryker IFCVs. This "show of force" was more to prevent other forces from moving in to claim turf recently abandoned by ISIL in its full scale retreat from Mosul, than to deliver the final knock-out blow.

**259. ARAB NATO:** The Saudi Arabian led coalition that intervened in Yemen (see GULF UNION #156) mimicked a US-led coalition in approach and Command & Control, but ultimately failed to secure the number of ground Troops needed to get the job done quickly. Nevertheless, these and other joint efforts within the Gulf Cooperation Council and other Sunni nations has lead to a defacto NATO like command structure with Iran playing the "scary bear" that unifies the Gulf monarchies.

**260. IMRAN KHAN:** A Pakistani politician and former cricketer who is the 22nd and current Prime Minister of Pakistan. He is also the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Previously he was a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan from 2002 to 2007, and again from 2013 to 2018. He played international cricket for two decades, and later developed philanthropic projects such as the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre and Namal College. In April 1996, Khan founded the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (Pakistan Movement for Justice), a centrist political party, and became the party's national leader. Khan contested for a seat in the National Assembly in October 2002 and served as an opposition member from Mianwali until 2007. He was again elected to the parliament in the 2013 elections, when his party emerged as the second largest in the country by popular vote. Khan served as the parliamentary leader of the party and led the third-largest block of parliamentarians in the National Assembly from 2013 to 2018. His party also led a coalition government in the north-western province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In the 2018 general elections, his party won the largest number of seats and defeated the ruling PML-N, bringing Khan to premiership and the PTI into federal government for the first time. Khan remains a popular public figure and is the author of, among other publications, Pakistan: A Personal History.

**261. INTEL COMMUNITY:** The cloak and dagger element of this struggle continues, and Intel elements have thwarted a number of would be Plots. This is the same card as seen in *Labyrinth* (#18) and *Awakening* (#138), though in both expansions the card includes the ability to remove a Cadre, since the focus of recent intel and police efforts has been on stopping the ability of Cells to be created from sympathetic elements in the first place.

**262. MOAB:** The GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB, commonly known as the "Mother of All Bombs") is a large-yield bomb, developed for the United States military by Albert L. Weimorts, Jr. of the Air Force Research Laboratory. At the time of development, it was said to be the most powerful non-nuclear weapon in the American arsenal. The bomb is designed to be delivered by a C-130 Hercules, primarily the MC-130E Combat Talon I or MC-130H Combat Talon II variants. The MOAB was first dropped in combat in the 13 April 2017 airstrike against an Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – Khorasan Province (ISIL) tunnel complex in Achin District, Afghanistan, and was said to have killed 94 ISIS-K militants, including four commanders. Others believe the first use of the weapon in combat was intended to send a message to the North Koreans that their underground nuclear research facilities or mountainside artillery parks were similarly vulnerable to non-nuclear ordnance.

**263. OPERATION TIDAL WAVE II:** Within three years of the establishment of the Caliphate, coalition air power had reduced is oil production 90% by destroying over 2,500 fuel tanker and other trucks, numerous mobile refineries, and other oil installations controlled by ISIL. This air operation was reminiscent of the efforts to stop Nazi oil production in 1943 in Ploesti and in other areas and thus this air campaign used the same operational name.

**264. PERSONAL SECURITY CONTRACTORS:** A private military company (PMC) provides armed combat or security services for financial gain. PMCs refer to their staff as "security contractors" or "private military contractors", and refer to their business generally as the "private military industry" or "The Circuit". The services and expertise offered by PMCs are typically similar to those of governmental security, military or police forces, most often on a smaller scale. While PMCs often provide services to train or supplement official armed forces in service of governments, they can also be employed by private companies to provide bodyguards for key staff or protection of company premises, especially in hostile territories. However, contractors who use offensive force in a war zone could be considered unlawful combatants, in reference to a concept outlined in the Geneva Conventions and explicitly specified by the 2006 American Military Commissions Act. There has been

controversy over whether PMCs in active combat zones should be considered mercenaries. According to a study from 2003 the PMC industry was worth over \$100 billion a year at that time. According to a 2008 study by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, private contractors make up 29% of the workforce in the United States Intelligence Community and cost the equivalent of 49% of their personnel budgets.

**265. POPULAR MOBILIZATION FORCES:** With the rise of the ISIL threat in the north, the Iraq government formed the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) by uniting existing militias under the “People’s Mobilization Committee” of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior in June 2014. Though mostly Shia in composition, Sunni Muslim, Christian, and Yazidi individuals were incorporated as well. The PMF forces were largely responsible for organizing the opposition that checked the initial ISIL onslaught, stopping it cold before it could threaten Baghdad.

**266. PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW:** During 2018 there seemed to be little in the news to spark a debate on national policy. The US economy had shown steady progress. Unemployment was at historic lows. ISIL was largely eliminated as an anti-US entity. This lack of something to talk about just before the mid-term election lead newscasters and politicians to stretch the truth and point fingers across the aisle, perhaps because here was simply nothing else to debate and air time needed to be filled. The most extreme example of this was all of the attention given to the Brett Kavanaugh hearings in the Fall of 2018. Both parties spent excessive amounts of resources on tearing apart the nominee or his accusers, and ultimately with no change in the predicted outcome.

**267. THIRD OFFSET STRATEGY:** The Defense Department’s Third Offset Strategy, which seeks to outmaneuver advantages made by top adversaries primarily through technology, is at heart based on the time-honored military concepts of being able to win a war if necessary but also having enough capability to deter one. A core component of the initiative is the formation of a Long-Range Research and Development Planning Program that will purportedly target several promising technology areas, including robotics and system autonomy, miniaturization, big data, and advanced manufacturing, while also seeking to improve the U.S. military’s collaboration with innovative private sector enterprises. The development of next-generation power projection platforms like unmanned autonomous strike aircraft, acceleration of the Long Range Strike Bomber (LRS-B), additional investments in undersea warfare systems like Unmanned Underwater Vehicles, and steps to reduce U.S. and partner vulnerability to the loss of space-based communications, is a key component of the strategy. Advanced technology in Cyber Warfare will also allow the US to shape the battlefield from afar.

**268. TRUMP TRIP:** President Donald Trump has perhaps the healthiest egos of all US Presidents since Theodore Roosevelt. His confidence in his ability to change the minds of adversaries has led him to seriously consider direct talks with Syria, Iran and to actually hold them with North Korea. Even when arriving in tepid environments, his magnetism and strength of personality initially engendered renewed confidence that the United States would act when tested.

**269. AIR AMERICA:** The rapid collapse of the Islamic State was the direct result of US and Allied air power having free reign to target both economic and military assets in both Syria and Iraq. Although the scale of the bombing by no means compared to Viet-

nam or WWII, its impact has been even more decisive, thanks to precision weapons and very accurate Battle Damage Assessment (BDA). During one 6 month segment of the war, B-1 Bombers as pictured on this card were responsible for dropping over 80% of the precision ordnance in Syria.

**270. DEEP STATE:** Some Muslim countries have militaries that are so entrenched in all facets of society, from business to education to investment, that these “deep state” institutions will intervene to ensure stability in the face of any opposition, including internal threats.

**271. EXPANDED ROE:** US military planners have long argued the benefits in COIN type operations of allowing soldiers on the ground to determine who their enemy is and engage appropriately; so called Expanded Rules of Engagement (ROE). The potential for collateral damage and backlash exists when undisciplined, excessive firepower is used.

**272. FIRE AND FURY:** Although this event never occurred during the time period covered by this game, it was frequently threatened by the US Chief Executive, and under different world circumstances, could very well have played out this way. The title comes from the threats that Trump displayed against North Korea, but his wrath (or blustering) could have easily been turned to a Middle Eastern state that was provoking a US response.

**273. FULLY RESOURCED COIN:** Although never able to achieve this from a foreign policy and force planning perspective, many US planners from Robert McNamara on have felt a little more effort in the right locations in a counterinsurgency could tip the balance towards a lasting victory. I clearly had fun choosing the art work for this card and it represents a collective shout-out of thanks to all of those who have put time and energy into the rigorous process of designing a COIN game on various topics!

**274. GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL ACCORD (GNA):** An interim government for Libya that was formed under the terms of the Libyan Political Agreement, a United Nations-led initiative, signed on 17 December 2015. The agreement was unanimously endorsed by the United Nations Security Council which has welcomed the formation of a Presidency Council for Libya and recognized that the Government of National Accord is the sole legitimate executive authority in Libya. On 31 December 2015, Chairman of the Libyan House of Representatives, Aguila Saleh Issa declared his support for the Libyan Political Agreement. Ever since, the General National Congress has criticized the unity government on multiple fronts as biased in favor of its rivals, the House of Representatives. So far, the GNA has struggled to assert its authority and has been largely unsuccessful in unifying Libya as expected. The ultimate viability of the Government of National Accord is uncertain given that the country still remains greatly divided across political, tribal and ideological lines.

**275. OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR):** ...is the U.S. military’s operational name for the military intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL) including both the campaign in Iraq and the campaign in Syria. Since 21 August 2016, the U.S. Army’s XVIII Airborne Corps has been responsible for Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR). During 4 years of mostly air operations, the US lead coalition has estimated the following ISIL casualties/losses:

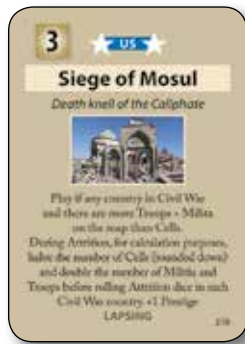
- 80,000+ killed by American and allied forces
- 32,000+ targets destroyed or damaged (as of 30 September 2016)
- 164 tanks



388 HMMWVs  
 2,638 pieces of oil infrastructure  
 1,000+ fuel tanker trucks  
 2,000+ pick-up trucks, VBIEDs, and other vehicles

**276. POPULISM/EUROSCPTICISM:** While it seemed to many Europeans that the United States had gone off its rocker in electing the would-be tyrant Donald Trump as President, it was not long after that many European countries experienced their own right-wing election victories. Hate speech seemed the order of the day across the western world and led to many changes of state. Although the volume of the venom being spewn has been high, it has not seemed to lead to the toppling of democratic institutions and safeguards as prognosticators had forewarned.

**277. REGIME CHANGE POLICY:** Early in the Trump administration, many of his conservative allies (especially John Bolton, who was National Security Advisor from April 9, 2018 – September 10, 2019) proposed a more forward leaning posture towards Iran. Options ranged from abandoning the Nuclear Arms Deal, to resuming sanctions to championing internal dissent to full scale regime change to remove the Khamenei directed government. This event allows for Regime Change anywhere, and represents the fickle nature of the early Trump foreign Policy where “tough talk” might lead the American nation into uncharted waters. Ultimately, Trump blinked when the time for action seemed imminent after the downing of a US Military drone in the Gulf on 20 June 2019, and the fighters were called home before releasing their payloads (see also #289 STRAIT OF HORMUZ).



**278. SIEGE OF MOSUL:** The Al-Nuri Mosque, where Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared his Caliphate on 4 July 2014 was retaken three years later by Iraqi Security forces. Although ISIL continued to resist in other areas in varying degrees of strength, the loss of Mosul showed that the organization, though strong in bluster, was light on the battlefield; 95% of all ISIL held territory in Syria and Iraq was liberated within a year of the Fall of Mosul.

**279. SFABs:** Security Force Assistance Brigades (SFABs) are specialized United States Army units whose core mission is to conduct training, advising, assisting, enabling and accompanying operations with allied and partner nations. These units are composed primarily of non-commissioned officers and commissioned officers selected from regular Army units and trained at the Military Advisor Training Academy (MATA) at Fort Benning, Georgia. SFABs improve on the Army’s ad-hoc solutions, which previously relied heavily on conventionally-organized Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) for the last 17 years. SFABs allow the Army to reduce, over time, the demand for conventional BCTs for combat Advising. This will allow BCTs to focus on readiness for fighting near-peer threats. SFABs are designed on the model of a standard infantry brigade combat team and are composed of roughly 800 personnel.

**280. SUNNI-SHIA RIFT:** In the post Iraq withdrawal world, Americans are increasingly coming to realize that the two main branches of Islam inflict more violence on each other than they do towards foreigners. In many cases US interests are best fostered by getting

out of the way as ancient rivalries re-manifest themselves in the ungoverned areas of Iraq, Syria and elsewhere.

**281. DRONE SWARMS:** In a last desperate measure to hold onto Mosul, ISIL deployed swarms of drones, often in coordination with suicide vehicles, to drop grenades or mortar shells on Iraqi troops in their positions. The Houthi rebels took this technique to a new level when in 2019 they flew drone swarms into the radar arrays of Saudi Arabia’s Patriot missile batteries, according to Conflict Armament Research, disabling them and allowing the Houthis to fire ballistic missiles into the kingdom unchallenged. The Houthis also launched drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia’s crucial East-West Pipeline in May. In August, Houthi drones struck Saudi Arabia’s Shaybah oil field, and in September they disabled nearly half of Saudi oil production when they struck the Abqaiq oil processing facility and the Khurais oil field. We are only seeing the beginning of this kind of low-risk high-reward strike capability

**282. EXECUTIVE ORDER 13492:** Signed by President Obama in 2009, it called for the immediate review of the statuses of all individuals detained at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, with the intent to move them out of the facility (either by transferring them, prosecuting them, or by other “lawful means, consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and the interests of justice”), followed by closure of detention facilities “as soon as practicable, and no later than 1 year from the date of this order”. The closure process has taken far longer than anticipated and the facility remains open, with 40 individuals in custody as of May 2018, continuing to be a reminder of the nearly two decade struggle against Jihadist extremism. On 30 January 2018, just before delivering his State of the Union address, Trump signed an executive order keeping the prison open indefinitely.

**283. LONE WOLF:** On 30 September, 2017 - 30-year-old Abdulahi Sharif drove into Edmonton police constable Mike Chernyk then stabbed him near Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, Alberta, fleeing and later hitting four pedestrians with a rental truck during a police pursuit. Police confirmed the presence of an ISIL flag in the van that struck the police officer. Caliphate radicalism has inspired seemingly regular citizens to take up arms in would be suicidal attacks on symbolic targets as a way to express their deep-felt religious ideology. Recent evidence suggests that some of these attackers, such as the Hyderabad plotters of 2016, are on “remote control”, with their handlers deeply buried in ISIL territory. Many similar incidents have been recorded in other western countries as well.

**284. MANCHESTER BOMBING:** On 22 May 2017, 22-year-old British Muslim Salman Ramadan Abedi detonated a shrapnel-laden homemade bomb at the exit of the Manchester Arena in England, following a concert by American singer Ariana Grande. Twenty-three adults and children were killed, including Abedi, and 119 were injured, 23 critically. After initial suspicions of a terrorist network, police later said they believe Abedi had largely acted alone. The attack was seemingly targeting British children, but had a greater impact on the parents who were waiting to pick up their kids after the event. Although not tied to BREXIT, the attack weakened the Theresa May government, paving the way for unsatisfactory results in the 2017 Parliamentary elections. The loss of an overall majority prompted May to enter a confidence and supply arrangement with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) to support a minority government. May survived a vote of no confidence from her own MPs in December 2018. Before the vote, May said that she would

not lead her party in the next general election scheduled for 2022 under the Fixed-term Parliaments Act, but did not rule out leading it into a snap election. May carried out the BREXIT negotiations with the European Union, adhering to the Chequers Agreement, which resulted in the draft Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU. This agreement was defeated by Parliament in January 2019, and negotiations continue to try and reach a satisfactory exit deal.



**285. MOHAMED MORSI SUPPORTERS:** Mohamed Morsi was an Egyptian politician who served as the fifth President of Egypt, from 30 June 2012 to 3 July 2013, when General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi removed Morsi from office in the 2013 Egyptian coup d'état after the June 2013 Egyptian protests. As president, Morsi issued a temporary constitutional declaration in late November that in effect granted him unlimited powers and the power to legislate without judicial oversight or review of his acts as a pre-emptive move against the expected dissolution of the second constituent assembly by the Mubarak-era judges. The new constitution that was then hastily finalized by the Islamist-dominated constitutional assembly, presented to the president, and scheduled for a referendum, before the Supreme Constitutional Court could rule on the constitutionality of the assembly, was described by independent press agencies not aligned with the regime as an “Islamist coup”. These issues, along with complaints of prosecutions of journalists and attacks on nonviolent demonstrators, led to the 2012 Egyptian protests. As part of a compromise, Morsi rescinded the decrees. The referendum he held on the new constitution was approved by approximately two thirds of voters. On 30 June 2013, protests erupted across Egypt, which saw protesters calling for the president’s resignation. In response to the events, Morsi was given a 48-hour ultimatum by the military to meet their demands and to resolve political differences, or else they would intervene by “implementing their own road map” for the country. He was unseated on 3 July by a military coup council consisting of Defense Minister Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, opposition leader Mohamed ElBaradei, the Grand Imam of Al Azhar Ahmed el-Tayeb, and Coptic Pope Tawadros II (#162 SCAF). The military suspended the constitution and established a new administration now led by General Abdel Fatah al-Sisi. The Muslim Brotherhood protested against the military coup, but the pro-Morsi protests were crushed in the August 2013 Rabaa massacre in which at least 817 civilians were killed. Opposition leader Elbaradei quit in protest of the massacre. Since his overthrow, Egyptian prosecutors have charged Morsi with various crimes and sought the death penalty, a move denounced by Amnesty International as “a charade based on null and void procedures.” His death sentence was overturned in November 2016, and supporters still occasionally rallied for his release. He died suddenly of a heart attack during trial on 17 June 2019.

**286. PALESTINIAN PEACE:** The peace process in the Israeli–Palestinian conflict refers to intermittent discussions held during the ongoing violence which has prevailed since the beginning of the conflict (1948). Since the 1970s, there has been a parallel effort made to find terms upon which peace can be agreed to in both the Arab–Israeli conflict and in the Palestinian–Israeli conflict. Some countries have signed peace treaties, such as the Egypt–Israel (1979) and Jordan–Israel (1994) treaties, whereas some have not yet found a mutual basis to do so. Since the 2003 road map for peace, the

current outline for a Palestinian–Israeli peace agreement has been a two-state solution.

**287. SAYYED HASSAN NASRALLAH:** Hassan Nasrallah is the third and current Secretary General of the Lebanese political and paramilitary party Hezbollah since his predecessor, Abbas al-Musawi, was assassinated by the Israel Defense Forces in February 1992. Nasrallah is often referred to as “al-Sayyid Hassan” the honorific “Sayyid” denoting descent from the Islamic prophet Muhammad through his grandson Husain ibn Ali. Under his tenure, Hezbollah has been designated a terrorist organization, either wholly or in part, by the United States, the European Union and other nations. Russia denies claims that Hezbollah is a terrorist organization, and considers Hezbollah a legitimate sociopolitical organization. The People’s Republic of China remains neutral, and maintains contacts with Hezbollah.

**288. SOLDIERS OF THE CALIPHATE:** From errant truck drivers, to concert violence, to night club shootings to the Las Vegas mass casualty incident on 1 October 2017, and the 11 December 2018 Strasbourg Christkindelsmarik shooting, ISIL is quick to raise its hands and say these events have been orchestrated and perpetrated by loyal Soldiers of the Caliphate, even when in some cases no connection exists.

**289. STRAITS OF HORMUZ:** On 13 June 2019, two oil tankers were attacked near the Strait of Hormuz while they transited the Gulf of Oman. The Japanese *Kokuka Courageous* and Norwegian *Front Altair* were attacked, allegedly with limpet mines or flying objects, sustaining fire damage. American and Iranian military personnel responded and rescued crew members. The attacks took place a month after the similar May 2019 Gulf of Oman incident and on the same day the Supreme Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe in Iran. Abe was acting as an intermediary between American President Donald Trump and Iranian supreme leader, Ali Khamenei. Amid heightened tension between Iran and the United States, the United States blamed Iran for the attacks. Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom supported the United States’ accusation. Germany has stated that there is “strong evidence” that Iran was responsible for the attacks, while Japan has asked for more proof of Iran’s culpability. Iran denied the accusation, blaming the United States for spreading disinformation and warmongering. In response to the incident, the United States announced on 17 June the deployment of 1,000 additional troops to the Middle East.

**290. UYGHUR NATIONALISM:** Also known as the East Turkestan independence movement, is the notion that the Uyghurs, a Turkic ethnic group who primarily inhabit China’s Xinjiang region (or “East Turkestan”), should form an independent state. Unlike the Han Chinese population, dominant throughout most of China, Uyghurs speak the Uyghur language and are generally Muslim. The history of the region has become highly politicized, with both Chinese and nationalist Uyghur historians frequently overstating the extent of their groups’ respective ties to the region. In reality, it has been home to many groups throughout history, with the Uyghurs arriving from Central Asia in the 10th century. By the 20th century they made up the vast majority of the population. In 1933 and 1944 attempts were made to declare an independent republic, but the first of these collapsed and the second was absorbed into People’s Republic of China in 1949. Pro-independence groups maintain that this constitutes an illegal occupation. Since then, a state-orchestrated mass migration from the 1950s to the 1970s has brought millions of Han Chinese

into Xinjiang. Many Uyghurs reportedly feel that they are slowly being eradicated as an ethnic and cultural group, and Human Rights Watch describes a “multi-tiered system of surveillance, control, and suppression of religious activity” perpetrated by state authorities. It is estimated that between 100,000 and 1,000,000 Uyghurs are currently held in political “re-education camps.” China justifies such measures as a response to the terrorist threat posed by extremist separatist groups. These factors have led to ongoing conflict with police and Han Chinese, including both frequent terrorist attacks and wider public unrest (such as the July 2009 Ürümqi riots; see Event card # 55 UYGHUR JIHAD). There is no single Uyghur agenda, and organizations which support the formation of an independent Uyghur state or greater autonomy include both non-violent groups such as the World Uyghur Congress and active terrorist organizations such as the Turkistan Islamic Party (often referred to as the “East Turkestan Islamic Movement” or ETIM) which often see the Uyghur struggle as part of a larger global jihad. Some groups, such as the East Turkestan Liberation Organization, are labeled as terrorists by China but not others.

**291. VEHICLE-RAMMING ATTACKS:** Seemingly the weapon of choice of unskilled jihadists who want to make a statement. Initial attacks occurred in continental Europe, including horrific results in Niece, Berlin, and then switching to the UK, with the London Bridge becoming a target of multiple attacks. Even the US was targeted when in late 2016 a Somali refugee became radicalized and rammed his vehicle into a crowd of students at Ohio State University Columbus; though there were no fatalities in this later incident. Other vehicle attacks occurred in New York City, on October 31, 2017, when an Islamist terrorist drove a rented pickup truck into cyclists and runners for about one mile (1.6 kilometers) on the Hudson River Park’s bike path alongside West Street from Houston Street south to Chambers Street in Lower Manhattan, New York City. The vehicle-ramming attack killed eight people, mostly foreign tourists, and injured eleven others. After crashing the truck into a school bus, the driver exited, apparently wielding two guns (later found to be a paintball and pellet gun). He was shot in the abdomen by a policeman and arrested. A flag and a document indicating allegiance to the terrorist group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) were found in the truck. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) charged 29-year-old Sayfullo Habibullaevich Saipov, who had immigrated to the United States from Uzbekistan in 2010, with destruction of a motor vehicle and providing material support for a terrorist organization. Previously that year there was a car ramming attack at Times Square, and a few weeks later a botched suicide Subway bombing, making the Big Apple a magnet for disaffected individuals wanting to make a statement. In 2016, NYC and surrounding areas of New Jersey were the subject of Shrapnel-filled pressure cooker bombs detonated in or discovered near crowded spaces resulting in the wounding of 31 people.

**292. AMAQ NEWS AGENCY:** An outlet linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). It is often the “first point of publication for claims of responsibility by the group”. Amaq was created in late 2013 and has branched out from simply reporting to becoming the defacto IT department of the Islamic State, to include launching Apps to communicate and inspire would-be followers around the globe. With the collapse of ISIL on the ground, it has continued on as the Virtual Caliphate. Its name was taken from Amik Valley in Hatay province in Southern Turkey near the Syrian border, which is mentioned in a hadith as the site of an “apocalyptic victory over non-believers”.

**293. ATTEMPTED COUP:** No new major Jihadist lead Civil Wars erupted during the timing of the Forever War game expansion, nevertheless the potential existed for other nations to suffer an Arab Spring like echo or spillover from adjacent Civil Wars. This event allows for that possibility when the conditions are right.

**294. BARCELONA BOMBS:** On the afternoon of 17 August 2017, 22-year-old Younes Abouyaaqoub drove a van into pedestrians on La Rambla in Barcelona, Spain, killing 14 people and injuring at least 130 others. Abouyaaqoub fled the attack on foot, then killed another person in order to steal the victim’s car to make his escape. Nine hours after the Barcelona attack, five men thought to be members of the same terrorist cell drove into pedestrians in nearby Cambrils, killing one woman and injuring six others. All five of those attackers were shot and killed by police. The night before the Barcelona attack, an explosion occurred in a house in the Spanish town of Alcanar, destroying the building and killing two members of the terrorist cell; including the 40-year-old imam thought to be the mastermind. The home had over 120 gas canisters inside which police believe the cell was attempting to make into one large bomb (or three smaller bombs to be placed in three vans which they had rented) but which they accidentally detonated. The Prime Minister of Spain, Mariano Rajoy, called the attack in Barcelona a jihadist attack. Amaq News Agency attributed indirect responsibility for the attack to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The attacks were the deadliest in Spain since the March 2004 Madrid train bombings and the deadliest in Barcelona since the 1987 Hipercor bombing. Younes Abouyaaqoub, the driver of the van in the Barcelona attack, was killed by police in a town 30 miles west of Barcelona on 21 August. The art work on the card depicts a mural painted to mark the spot where the attackers van came to rest.

**295. BLACK GOLD:** Many years of Civil War had largely destroyed the oil pipeline infrastructure in northern Iraq and Eastern Syria, especially in the areas controlled by ISIL. The newly formed government resorted to tanker trucks to move their most important commodity. Allied planners got wind of this and focused air assets to destroy both the mini-refineries and the trucks that carried the oil. (See event card # 263, OPERATION TIDAL WAVE II).

**296. BOTCHED YEMEN RAID:** The Raid on Yakla, or simply 2017 Yemen raid, was a United States-led Special Operations Forces operation carried out on 29 January 2017 in al-Ghayil, a village in the Yakla area of the Al Bayda province in central Yemen, during the Yemeni Civil War (2015–present). Authorized by President Donald Trump, its goal was to gather intelligence on al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and also possibly target the group’s leader, Qasim al-Raymi. The operation, the first high level counter-terrorism raid authorized by Trump during his presidency, did not follow the rigorous planning procedures of the prior two administrations. United States Central Command (CENTCOM) was involved with the Special Operations Command, which oversees global counter-terrorism military operations, and the CIA. One DEVGRU operator (Navy Seal) was killed and three other DEVGRU operators were wounded in the raid. Between 10 and 30 civilians were also killed in the raid along with up to 14 enemy combatants, largely from aerial fire provided by a gunship. A Bell Boeing MV-22B Osprey was destroyed during the operation. The raid in Yemen was described as “risky from the start and costly in the end”; the “botched” operation raised questions about the choice to go forward with the raid “without sufficient intelligence, ground support or adequate backup preparations”. The precondition text suggests that the US is willing to take on riskier operations when things are going

swell, and a degree of pride has entered into the planning process (similar to the split-second decision making in Allied planning for Operation Market Garden during WWII)

**297. EARLY EXIT:** On 19 December 2018, President Trump tweeted that he would be pulling the 2,200 US troops out of Syria. He did this spontaneously and with literally no support from his National Security and Military advisory team. This quick-fire decision to pull the troops out appears to have been made during a phone call President Trump had with President Erdoğan a week before. The action prompted the resignation of Secretary of Defense (SECDEF), Jim Mattis, and then the special envoy on ISIL, Brett McGurk, both citing the need for the US to support its allies in the region. The President's sudden declaration sparked public and congressional outcry that the SECDEF was the last remaining reasonable person in the administration who could be a counterpoint to some of Trump's chaotic decision making, and was now no longer available to influence outcomes. Trump responded by accepting the Mattis resignation, and making it effective on 1 January 2019, rather than two months later. Since both Turkey and Russia ultimately supported the decision, it was feared by US planners that by pulling out too quickly, either Turkish or Russian interests would be able to move into the Eastern part of Syria, which had been largely controlled by Kurdish forces backed by the US flag and air power following the collapse of the physical Caliphate. As weeks passed, it looked like Trump may have been playing Iran off of Russia, desiring instead to secure the original Syrian borders under the House of Assad and backed by Russia and not Shia Islam. Ultimately the US Troops were not withdrawn en-mass in early 2019 as predicated, but following another phone call between the two heads of state, the White House released a statement on 6 October that Turkey would "soon" be carrying out a planned military offensive into Kurdish-administered northern Syria, so U.S. troops in northern Syria began to withdraw from the area to avoid interference with the offensive. The White House statement also passed responsibility for the area's captured ISIL fighters (held by Kurdish forces) to Turkey. This initial withdrawal involved around 50 troops from two towns along the Syrian border, Tal Abyad and Ras al-Ayn. The sudden withdrawal proved controversial as U.S. Congress members of both parties sharply denounced the move, including Republican allies of Trump such as Senator Lindsey Graham and Mitch McConnell. They argued that the move betrayed the American-allied Kurds, and would only benefit ISIL, Turkey, Russia, Iran and Bashar al-Assad's Syrian regime. After the U.S. pullout, Turkey launched its ground offensive into Kurdish-controlled areas in northeast Syria on 9 October, spelling the collapse of the Turkey-U.S. Northern Syria Buffer Zone agreement established in August 2019. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo denied that the U.S. had given a "green light" for Turkey to attack the Kurds. However, Pompeo defended the Turkish military action, stating that Turkey had a "legitimate security concern" with "a terrorist threat to their south". On 13 October, Defense Secretary Mark Esper stated that the entire contingent of nearly 1,000 U.S. troops would be withdrawn from northern Syria entirely, because the U.S. learned that Turkey will "likely intend to extend their attack further south than originally planned, and to the west". Hours later, the Kurdish forces, concluding that it would help save Kurdish lives, announced an alliance with the Syrian government and its Russian allies, in a united effort to repel the Turkish offensive. As the US Convoys exited to Iraq in the south in late October 2019, they were pelted by rocks and spoiled food thrown by Kurdish protesters expressing displeasure at the Americans abandoning their allies.

**298. FALSE FLAG ATTACKS:** A false flag is a covert operation designed to deceive; the deception creates the appearance of a particular party, group, or nation being responsible for some activity, disguising the actual source of responsibility. The term "false flag" originally referred to pirate ships that flew flags of countries as a disguise to prevent their victims from fleeing or preparing for battle. Sometimes the flag would remain and the blame for the attack be laid incorrectly on another country. The term today extends beyond naval encounters to include countries that organize attacks on themselves and make the attacks appear to be by enemy nations or terrorists, thus giving the nation that was supposedly attacked a pretext for domestic repression and/or foreign military aggression. Operations carried out during peacetime by civilian organizations, as well as covert government agencies, can (by extension) also be called false flag operations if they seek to hide the real organization behind an operation. Acts of violence or even mass vandalism can incite peoples to act against others, even when those groups did not commit the original act.

**299. FOREIGN FIGHTERS RETURN:** Following the collapse of the Caliphate, a number of "foreign fighters" (see cards #81 & #187, both titled FOREIGN FIGHTERS and #221 FLYPAPER) from Europe and elsewhere tried to make it back to their home countries in hopes of finding lenient amnesty or secretly resuming their old lives. Some wanted to continue the struggle by other means in other locales.

**300. GOING UNDERGROUND:** A favored tactic of the rebel factions in the many Civil Wars in the Middle East this century was to emerge from a hiding to strike at government forces and then disappear back into an urban underground environment that could conceal their strength and identity, allowing them to plan in relative security their next operation.

**301. GREEN ON BLUE:** All too often local security forces would radicalize or become infiltrated by Jihadists who would then perform suicide operations against the US Troops with whom they had operated or trained with for some time. From 2008 through the summer of 2017, there have been more than 90 insider attacks in Afghanistan resulting in the death of more than 150 Allied soldiers and the wounding of over 190 more. The most notorious attack was an attempt on the life of US Army General Scott Miller, NATO Commander in Afghanistan, on 18 October 2018. Although the American general survived the attack, it was believed to be the first time an American Flag Officer has had to draw his sidearm in combat since the Vietnam War. Gen. Abdul Raziq, police chief of Kandahar province and a staunch US ally, was killed during the attack, along with several bodyguards. Just a few weeks later on 3 November 2018, the Mayor of North Ogden Utah, Brent Taylor, was killed by just such an insider attack when an Afghan soldier he was training opened fire on his US trainers. The Mayor was a 39 year old Major in the Utah National Guard on his fourth deployment and was survived by his wife and seven children.

**302. IMPERIAL OVERSTRETCH:** The US has shouldered the burden in the GWOT for nearly two decades, with a peace dividend desired and expected. This card represents the decreasing resources available when operating at high intensity for too long a period of time.

**303. IRANIAN WITHDRAWAL:** The potential for a failed nuclear deal with Iran existed from the start. Trump's ascendancy to the Presidency only made things more tenuous, as he tried to distance himself from the policies of the previous administration. This event assumes the Iranians withdraw from the control regime and start the process to build a WMD.

**304. LOOSE CHEMICALS:** Largely due to the efforts of UN Security Council Resolution 2118 (see card #151 UNSCR 2118), no evidence of loss of control of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian government has been reported. Nevertheless there remained the possibility that a Jihadist related faction could have captured chemical warheads and used them later either in Syria or a different theater.



**305. PRESIDENTIAL WHISTLEBLOWER:** The Trump–Ukraine scandal is an ongoing political scandal in the United States. It revolves around efforts by U.S. President Donald Trump to coerce Ukraine and other foreign countries into providing damaging narratives about 2020 Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden and about Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections. Trump enlisted surrogates within and outside his official administration, including his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani and Attorney General Bill Barr, to pressure Ukraine and other foreign governments to cooperate in supporting conspiracy theories concerning American politics. Trump blocked payment of a congressionally mandated \$400 million military aid package in order to exact quid pro quo cooperation from Volodymyr Zelensky, the president of Ukraine. A number of contacts were established between the White House and the government of Ukraine, culminating in a July 2019 phone call between Trump and Zelensky. When Trump’s activities were revealed in August 2019, the House of Representatives launched an impeachment investigation. The scandal reached widespread public attention through an August 2019 whistleblower complaint, which raised concerns about Trump encouraging a foreign government to interfere in a U.S. election for the president’s personal political benefit. The Trump White House has corroborated several allegations raised by the whistleblower. A non-verbatim transcript of the Trump–Zelensky call confirmed that Trump requested investigations into Joe Biden, his son Hunter Biden, as well as a debunked conspiracy theory involving a Democratic National Committee server, while repeatedly urging Zelensky to work with Giuliani and Barr on these matters. The White House also confirmed that a record of the call had been stored in a highly restricted system. The Trump administration’s top diplomat to Ukraine, Bill Taylor, testified that U.S. military aid to Ukraine and a Trump–Zelensky White House meeting were “conditioned on the investigations” into the Bidens and alleged Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. elections. Trump has also publicly urged Ukraine and China to investigate the Bidens. The art work on the card depicts an initial meeting of the two heads of state, with the former comedian Zelensky displaying a worried face. As this game expansion goes to print, the hearings continue and remain a long-term distraction to the President and the rest of the US Foreign Policy establishment.

**306. PUBLIC DEBATE:** As a Democratic Republic, the strategic options available to the US are often debated in the public forum, thus giving potential adversaries the opportunity to plan in advance their countermoves before the US acts. The multiple intentional political releases of US Classified information over the last few years (see #194 SNOWDEN), and even the Republican House of Representatives storming of a Classified deposition on 24 October 2019, with cameras in hand, shows the troubles Democracies have in keeping secrets when freedom of expression is valued so highly.

**307. RUSSIAN SUBTERFUGE:** Charges of Russian meddling began with the 2016 US election, and only increased in volume as the Trump Presidency continued. Originally the Russian goals, as defined by a US Intelligence Consensus were: 1) keep Hillary Clinton from being elected, 2) elect Trump, and 3) sow discord in the US election cycle in an effort to increase voter discontent with the results and diminish their level of trust in the US election process. Since the election, Russian meddling has tried to divide Americans into factions against each other so they are more focused internally and are less aware of Russian expansion in the Crimea and Ukraine, adventurism in Syria and elsewhere. Russian agents and machines have deliberately used search engine optimization techniques to manipulate how articles are previewed in various search engines and on social media, in an effort to get the US public to become more polarized and less unified internally. Much effort was also made on social media to exacerbate the seemingly unpatriotic stance taken by sports stars of taking a knee during the playing of the National Anthem prior to a game.

**308. BATTLE OF MARAWI CITY:** The Battle of Marawi, also known as the Marawi siege and the Marawi crisis was a five-month-long armed conflict in Marawi, Lanao del Sur, that started on 23 May 2017, between Philippine government security forces and militants affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), including the Maute and Abu Sayyaf Salafi jihadist groups. The battle also became the longest urban battle in the modern history of the Philippines. According to the Philippine government, the clashes began during an offensive in Marawi to capture Isnilon Hapilon, the leader of the ISIL-affiliated Abu Sayyaf group (see #57 ABU-SAYYAF), after receiving reports that Hapilon was in the city, possibly to meet with militants of the Maute group. A deadly firefight erupted when Hapilon’s forces opened fire on the combined Army and police teams and called for reinforcements from the Maute group, an armed group that pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and which is believed to be responsible for the 2016 Davao City bombing. Maute group militants attacked Camp Ranao and occupied several buildings in the city, including Marawi City Hall, Mindanao State University, a hospital and the city jail. They also occupied the main street and set fire to Saint Mary’s Cathedral, Ninoy Aquino School and Dansalan College, run by the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP). The militants also took a priest and several churchgoers hostage. The Armed Forces of the Philippines stated that some of the terrorists were foreigners who had been in the country for a long time, offering support to the Maute group in Marawi. Their main objective was to raise an ISIL flag at the Lanao del Sur Provincial Capitol and declare a wilayat or provincial ISIL territory in Lanao del Sur. On 17 October 2017, the day after the deaths of militant leaders Omar Maute and Isnilon Hapilon, Philippine President Duterte declared Marawi was “liberated from terrorist influence”. Then on 23 October 2017, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced that the five-month battle against the terrorists in Marawi had finally ended. This battle and other similar violent actions across the islands have strengthened President Duterte’s hand in using violent countermeasures to restore stability, including mass arrests and on-the-spot executions carried out by some of his supporters.

**309. EASTER BOMBINGS:** On 21 April 2019, Easter Sunday, three churches in Sri Lanka and three luxury hotels in the commercial capital Colombo were targeted in a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings. Later that day, there were smaller explosions at a housing complex in Dematagoda and a guest house in Dehiwala. 258

people were killed, including at least 45 foreign nationals and three police officers, and at least 500 were injured. The church bombings were carried out during Easter services in Negombo, Batticaloa and Colombo; the hotels that were bombed were the Shangri-La, Cinnamon Grand, Kingsbury and Tropical Inn. According to Sri Lankan government officials, all seven of the suicide bombers in the attacks were Sri Lankan citizens associated with National Thowheeth Jama'ath, a local militant Islamist group with suspected foreign ties, previously known for attacks against Buddhists and Sufis. State Minister of Defence Ruwan Wijewardene said in parliament on 23 April that the government believed the attack was in retaliation for the attack against Muslims in Christchurch New Zealand on 15 March 2019. The direct linkage between the two attacks was questioned by New Zealand's government and by some experts. On 23 April 2019, Amaq News Agency (see card #292), an outlet for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), stated that the perpetrators of the attack targeting the citizens of coalition countries and Christians in Sri Lanka were Islamic State fighters. Sri Lanka was not part of the anti-ISIL coalition, and the overwhelming majority of those killed were Sri Lankan citizens. A man believed to be long-silent ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi praised the attackers during an 18-minute video on a range of topics.

**310. FOREVER WAR:** A political science term of an endless war carried out that appears to have no end in sight. Also known as a perpetual war or an endless war, forever wars are caused by constantly expanding goals in a war, such as fighting against more countries and/or groups than originally planned. It is usually used in reference to a war that the United States is involved in. Some examples of "forever wars" include the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, and the War on Terror. The Afghanistan War is especially notable for being a "forever war". War weariness has drained popular will in the US and created a long-term resolve in the Obama administration to "get-out". This attitude drove a backlash in the electorate to "get it right" partially culminating in the election of Donald Trump as US President. The US deployment to Afghanistan is the longest military combat commitment in US history. The desire to bring the boys home has also driven Trump to seemingly pull out of Syria before getting the job done (see # 297 EARLY EXIT).

**311. GAZA BORDER PROTESTS:** On 30 March 2018, a six-week campaign composed of a series of protests was launched at the Gaza Strip, near the Gaza-Israel border. Called by Palestinian organizers the "Great March of Return", the protests demand that Palestinian refugees and their descendants be allowed to return to the land they were displaced from in what is now Israel. They also protested the blockade of the Gaza Strip and the movement of the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem (see card #254). Violence during the protests has resulted in the deadliest days of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since the 2014 Gaza War, with over 110 Palestinians killed during clashes. Organization of the protests was initiated by independent activists, and has been endorsed and supported by Hamas, as well as other major factions in the Gaza Strip. Some creativity has been used by the protestors in terms of building smoke screens with burning tires or launching kite attacks across the fence. The protests involved both peaceful demonstrations, which often times covered more militant means to include rocks, Molotov cocktails and other arms.

**312. HAMA OFFENSIVE:** The Hama offensive (September 2017), code-named "Oh Servants of God, Be Steadfast," was a military offensive launched by rebel groups led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (see card #313) north of the city Hama, as part of the Syrian Civil

War. In March 2017, rebels led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham launched an unsuccessful offensive against the Syrian Armed Forces north of Hama. Although they achieved territorial gains in the first month of the offensive, occupying more than double the territory, after seven days, a counter-offensive was launched by government forces and their allies, recapturing territory. By April, government forces fully expelled the rebels from the initial position of the offensive. There have been a number of rebel offensives in the same area throughout the Syrian Civil War as the no-man's land changed hands multiple times.

**313. HAYAT TAHIR AL-SHAM:** "Organization for the Liberation of the Levant" or "Levant Liberation Committee", commonly referred to as Tahrir al-Sham and abbreviated HTS, also known as al-Qaeda in Syria, is an active Salafist jihadist militant group involved in the Syrian Civil War. The group was formed on 28 January 2017 as a merger between Jabhat Fateh al-Sham (formerly al-Nusra Front), the Ansar al-Din Front, Jaysh al-Sunna, Liwa al-Haqq, and the Nour al-Din al-Zenki Movement. After the announcement, additional groups and individuals joined. A number of analysts and media outlets still continue to refer to this group by its previous names, al-Nusra Front, or Jabhat Fateh al-Sham. The Ansar al-Din Front and Nour al-Din al-Zenki Movement have since split off from Tahrir al-Sham. Despite the merger, Tahrir al-Sham has been accused of working as al-Qaeda's Syrian branch on a covert level, and that many of the group's senior figures, particularly Abu Jaber, held similarly extreme views. However, Tahrir al-Sham has officially denied being part of al-Qaeda and said in a statement that the group is "an independent entity and not an extension of previous organizations or factions". Additionally, some factions such as Nour al-Din al-Zenki, which was part of the merger, were once supported by the US. Russia claims that Tahrir al-Sham shares al-Nusra Front's goal of turning Syria into an Islamic emirate run by al-Qaeda.

**314. JIHADIST AFRICAN SAFARI:** Despite the Western focus on ISIL during the period of this game expansion, Sub Saharan Jihadists were active and controlled swaths of territory that rivaled in geographic size the Middle Eastern Caliphate.

**315. KHASHOGGI CRISIS:** Some have suggested that the disappearance of US resident and dissident Journalist Jamal Khashoggi was the toughest foreign policy crisis of the first two years of the Trump Administration. Khashoggi entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to finalize divorce papers on 2 OCT 2018, but instead was the subject of an extrajudicial execution, while his fiancée waited for him outside at a nearby cafe. Turkish authorities claimed both audio and video evidence of a brutal killing, but took a long time in bringing specifics to light, apparently to give the Saudi's and the US time to figure out how to resolve their differences without threatening the long-term alliance. Ultimately the Saudis acknowledged that Khashoggi was dead. Initially they said it was from a fist fight that occurred shortly after he entered the consulate, then later from a drugged kidnapping that had gone wrong, and finally from strangulation. 18 Saudis were arrested in the aftermath, and five more government officials were dismissed from their post. The Turkish government revealed they had hacked the phones of the assassins and recorded the conversation, including a call to "tell the Boss" that the deed was done. The US Treasury Department designated 17 Saudi Arabians for involvement in the killing, imposing sanctions that freeze any U.S. assets and prohibit any Americans from dealings with them. A couple days later the Saudis sentenced five of the executioners to death, followed by an American CIA report declaring they had evidence that the Crown Prince MbS had given

direct orders for the operation to be carried out, setting the stage for a potential succession crisis in the Kingdom, which ultimately never materialized. The event card effects portray the dilemma the US was in as the crisis broke, as distancing themselves from a key ally would impact efforts in the GWOT, while support for the Crown Prince would be unpopular in the Middle East. On 11 December 2018, Jamal Khashoggi was named Time magazine's person of the year for his work in journalism along with other journalists who faced political persecution for their work. In September 2019, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (card #333 MB5) stated that he bears the responsibility for Khashoggi's assassination by Saudi operatives "because it happened under my watch", according to a preview of a PBS documentary. However, he denied having any prior knowledge of the plot. This card also recognizes the dangers faced by front-line journalists. According to Reporters Without Borders' annual report, the year 2018 was the worst year on record for deadly violence and abuse toward journalists; there was a 15 percent increase in such killings since 2017. Ruben Pat was gunned down outside a Mexican beach bar. Yaser Murtaja was shot by an Israeli army sniper. Bulgarian Viktoria Marinova was beaten, raped and strangled. A car bomb killed Malta's Daphne Caruana Galizia. Jamal Khashoggi was killed inside Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul on Oct 2. A known total of 84 news media or citizen reporters were killed in 2018, showing the dangers involved in searching out the truth in support of the rule of law.

**316. MARTYRDOM OPERATION:** When combined with WMD, this is one of the most powerful cards in the game system. I dropped it from 3 cards to 1 in the *Awakening* expansion, and kept it here as 1 card in the 3rd expansion, primarily because there are many other more specific cards that provide automatic Plots as well.

**317. QATARI CRISIS:** In June 2013, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani became the Emir of Qatar after his father handed over power in a televised speech. Sheikh Tamim has prioritized improving the domestic welfare of citizens, which includes establishing advanced healthcare and education systems, and expanding the country's infrastructure in preparation for hosting the 2022 World Cup, which will occur from 21 November to 18 December, making Qatar the first Arab country to do so. Qatar participated in the Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen against the Houthis and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was deposed in the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings (see cards #119 SALEH & #167 HOUTH REBELS). The increased influence of Qatar and its role during the Arab Spring, especially during the Bahraini uprising in 2011 (# 124 PEARL ROUNDABOUT & #203 DAY OF RAGE), worsened longstanding tensions with Saudi Arabia, the neighboring United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Bahrain. In June 2017, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain cut off diplomatic relations with Qatar, citing the country's alleged support of groups they considered to be extremist. This has resulted in increased Qatari economic and military ties with Turkey and Iran. Moreover, in June 2017, those three countries and Egypt accused it of supporting and funding terrorism and manipulating internal affairs of its neighboring states. The 2017 Qatar diplomatic crisis occurred as a result of several countries abruptly cutting off diplomatic relations with Qatar, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt. The severing of relations included withdrawing ambassadors, and imposing trade and travel bans. Saudi Arabia and other countries have criticized Al Jazeera and Qatar's relations with Iran, and accused Qatar of funding terrorist organizations. Qatar denied that it supports terrorism, given that it has assisted the United States

in the War on Terror and the ongoing military intervention against ISIL. Saudi Arabia's actions were verbally supported by United States President Donald Trump. Many countries in the region, including Turkey, Russia and Iran, called for the crisis to be resolved through peaceful negotiations. The crises was exacerbated due to real and perceived business, economic, cultural and strategic ties that Qatar has across the gulf with Iran, and by a resulting arms deal with the US totaling \$12 billion to buy 36 F-15 fighter aircraft from the United States. The event card is significant in game terms in that it allows Iran to become adjacent to a much greater list of target countries.



**318. SOUTH CHINA SEA CRISIS:** The South China Sea disputes involve both island and maritime claims among several sovereign states within the region, namely Brunei, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Republic of China (Taiwan), Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. An estimated US \$5 trillion worth of global trade passes through the South China Sea annually and many non-claimant states want the South China Sea to remain international waters. To

promote this, several states, including the United States, conduct "freedom of navigation" operations. The disputes include the islands, reefs, banks, and other features of the South China Sea, including the Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, and various boundaries in the Gulf of Tonkin. There are further disputes, including the waters near the Indonesian Natuna Islands, which many do not regard as part of the South China Sea. Claimant states are interested in retaining or acquiring the rights to fishing areas, the exploration and potential exploitation of crude oil and natural gas in the seabed of various parts of the South China Sea, and the strategic control of important shipping lanes. In July 2016, an arbitration tribunal constituted under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) ruled against the PRC's maritime claims in *Philippines v. China*. The People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan) stated that they did not recognize the tribunal and insisted that the matter should be resolved through bilateral negotiations with other claimants. However, the tribunal did not rule on the ownership of the islands or delimit maritime boundaries. A prolonged US military deployment to this region, perhaps as a result of an inadvertent military clash, would have lingering repercussions on forces or other options available in the GWOT.

**319. TEHRAN-BEIRUT LAND CORRIDOR:** A recent objective of Iran is to establish a secure connection that would allow highway access of goods and military vehicles across the fertile crescent from Tehran to the Mediterranean Sea. The secure shipment of oil and other trade good across this route would further establish Iran as a regional power, and one that would be less vulnerable to the closure or adversarial control of the Straits of Hormuz.

**320. TRIBAL LEADERS WITHDRAW SUPPORT:** The fickle nature of Militia is that they frequently have other preoccupations that must be tended to in addition to the conflict at hand, especially when the battles are ranging far away from home.

**321. UNGOVERNED SPACES:** Since 9/11, the strategy of the United States to avoid another bolt from the blue attack is to reduce the number of places from which terrorist elements could organize,

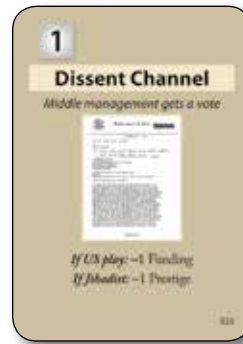
recruit, train and operate from (i.e., increasing the level of Good Governance across the globe). Nevertheless, Jihadist elements have proven adept at squeezing out of the current areas of focus (Syria and Iraq) and appearing in other less governed spaces (Afghanistan, Libya, other parts of Africa). The US strategy may still take decades to fulfill, and will be subject to chinks in the armor that appear when nations succumb to internal pressures such as Civil War. Additionally, large swaths of African countryside are not very well ruled by their governments who hold power in the big cities that are typically found along the coast or major rivers. Nigeria is an example of this where Boko Haram had created a “rump state” over nearly 40% of the country in the north. This has led to a new term to describe these multi faction armed states, “Somaliaization”. Similar to Balkanization, it means the division of a previous country into smaller parts that are governed by separate entities with little hope of returning to previous, recognized national government and borders.

**322. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL:** Amnesty International (commonly known as Amnesty or AI) is a London-based non-governmental organization focused on human rights. The organization claims to have more than seven million members and supporters around the world. The stated mission of the organization is to campaign for “a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.” Amnesty International was founded in London in 1961, following the publication of the article “The Forgotten Prisoners” in *The Observer* on 28 May 1961, by the lawyer Peter Benenson. Amnesty draws attention to human rights abuses and campaigns for compliance with international laws and standards. It works to mobilize public opinion to put pressure on governments that let abuse take place. Amnesty considers capital punishment to be “the ultimate, irreversible denial of human rights”. The organization was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its “defense of human dignity against torture,” and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978. In the field of international human rights organizations, Amnesty has the third longest history, after the International Federation for Human Rights, and broadest name recognition, and is believed by many to set standards for the movement as a whole. In February 2016, Amnesty International launched its annual report of human rights around the world titled “The State of the World’s Human Rights”. It warns of the consequences of “us vs. them” speech which divided human beings into two camps. It states that this speech enhances a global pushback against human rights and makes the world more divided and more dangerous. It also noted that in 2016, governments turned a blind eye to war crimes and passed laws that violate free expression.

**323. BLASPHEMY:** The Asia Bibi blasphemy case involves Pakistani Christian woman Aasiya Noreen who was convicted of blasphemy by a Pakistani court and was initially sentenced to death by hanging in 2010. In June 2009, Noreen had an argument with Muslim co-workers while harvesting berries when she had offered them water out of a common bowl. She was subsequently arrested and imprisoned. In November 2010, a Sheikhpura judge sentenced her to death by hanging. The verdict was upheld by Lahore High Court and received worldwide attention. Various petitions for her release were created by organizations aiding persecuted Christians, including one that received 400,000 signatures, and Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis called for the charges to be dismissed. Minorities minister Shahbaz Bhatti and Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer were both assassinated for advocating on her behalf and opposing the

blasphemy laws. Noreen’s family went into hiding after receiving death threats, some of which threatened to kill Noreen if released from prison. In October 2018, the Supreme Court of Pakistan acquitted her based on insufficient evidence. She was subsequently held under armed guard and was not able to leave the country until 7 May 2019; when she left for Canada and arrived the next day. Noreen was the first woman in Pakistan to be sentenced to death for blasphemy, and would have been the first person in Pakistan to be executed for blasphemy under the current law, if the sentence had been carried out. The blasphemy law in Pakistan has resulted in the killing of over 60 people due to accusations, as well as dozens of communal attacks which have taken place against religious minorities as well as Muslims on the pretext of blasphemy, and has been used by individuals as a tool for revenge against other rivals.

**324. BREXIT:** The British plebiscite could have gone either way, and like other elections in its time period was largely a protest vote against authority. Nevertheless, recent Jihadist actions drove a sense of anxiety in the populous paving the way for the historic outcome. The on-again-off-again nature of the British government decision on how to exit played out over the length of this expansion, and begged to be included in the game.



**325. DISSENT CHANNEL:** A messaging framework open to Foreign Service Officers, and other U.S. citizens employed by the United States Department of State and Agency for International Development (USAID), through which they are invited to express constructive criticism of government policy. The Dissent Channel was established in the 1970s. Submissions through the Dissent Channel circulate to senior State Department officials; under department regulations, diplomats who

submit dissent cables are supposed to be protected from retaliation or reprisal. Significant issues of dissent that occurred in the time period of this expansion include:

In June 2016, 51 Foreign Service officers used the channel to protest the U.S.’s failure to intervene in Syria, a record number at the time. The cable—a draft copy of which was obtained by *The New York Times*—called for limited military strikes against the Assad regime.

In January 2017, about 1,000 Foreign Service officers signed a dissent cable condemning Donald Trump’s Executive Order 13769, which imposed a travel and immigration ban on the nationals of seven majority-Muslim countries. This is by far the largest number to ever sign on to a dissent cable.

In July 2017, State Department officials used the dissent channel to accuse Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson of violating federal law (specifically, the Child Soldiers Prevention Act) by failing to designate Myanmar, Iraq and Afghanistan as countries that recruit, use, or fund child soldiers on the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

**326. FILIBUSTER/NUCLEAR OPTION:** The nuclear option (or constitutional option) is a parliamentary procedure that allows the United States Senate to override a rule – specifically the 60-vote rule to close debate – by a simple majority of 51 votes, rather than the two-thirds supermajority normally required to amend the rules. The option is invoked when the majority leader raises a point of order that only a simple majority is needed to close debate on certain matters. The presiding officer denies the point of order based on Senate rules, but the ruling of the chair is then appealed and



overturned by majority vote, establishing new precedent. This procedure effectively allows the Senate to decide any issue by simple majority vote, regardless of existing procedural rules such as Rule XXII which requires the consent of 60 senators (out of 100) to end a filibuster for legislation, and 67 for amending a Senate rule. The term “nuclear option” is an analogy to nuclear weapons being the most extreme option in warfare. In November 2013, Senate Democrats led by Harry Reid used the nuclear option to eliminate the 60-vote rule on executive branch nominations and federal judicial appointments, but not for the Supreme Court. In April 2017, Senate Republicans led by Mitch McConnell extended the nuclear option to the Supreme Court and the nomination of Neil Gorsuch ending the debate. Currently, a three-fifths majority vote is still required to end debates on legislation.

**327. GAZA AID:** Multiple times over the last few years there have been blockades, embargoes and work stoppages/travel restrictions in the Gaza Strip and to a similar degree the West Bank. This event assumes that the West responds with aid to the beleaguered refugees, which would have the dual affect of raising stature in the eyes of Muslim world while supplying disenfranchised populations who support the global Jihadist movement.

**328. HAFIZ SAEED KHAN:** The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – Khorasan Province or ISIL-KP, is a branch of ISIL, active in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Some media sources also use ISK, ISISK, IS-KP, or ISIS-K in referring to the group. The Khorasan group’s area of operations also includes other parts of South Asia, such as India where individuals have pledged allegiance to it. ISIL announced the group’s formation in January 2015 and appointed former Tehrik-I-Taliban Pakistan militant Hafiz Saeed Khan as its leader, with former Afghan Taliban commander Abdul Rauf Aliza appointed as deputy leader. Aliza was killed in a U.S. drone strike in February 2015, while Khan was killed in a U.S. airstrike in July 2016. Abdul Hasib currently runs ISIL-KP.

**329. HAMZA BIN LADEN:** The son of Osama bin Laden. His father, as well as his brother Khalid, were killed in the 2011 Navy SEAL raid (card #160 OPERATION NEPTUNE SPEAR). Letters from the compound confirmed that Osama was grooming Hamza to be his heir apparent following the death of Hamza’s older brother Saad in a 2009 US drone strike. He has made a number of audio recordings encouraging follower of Islam to revenge his father’s death or take other actions. For this reason and in light of his growing influence within al-Qaeda, the US classified Hamza bin Laden as Specially Designated Global Terrorist in January 2017. This effectively put him on a blacklist aimed at restricting his movement and economic abilities. On 14 September 2019, U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed that Hamza bin Laden was killed in a U.S. counterterrorism operation in the Afghanistan/Pakistan region; other details were not disclosed.

**330. IRGC:** In October 2017 Major-General Qassem Soleimani of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps traveled to Kirkuk three times to warn the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) not to interfere as the Iraqi army and supporting Iranian backed militia moved north to fill the void left by the Fall of ISIL. The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the other Kurdish party, felt betrayed. The same general just a year before had helped organize the resistance to ISIL from the south and was seemingly acting in US interests.

**331. JASTA:** Congress passed the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act on September 28, 2016 overriding President Obama’s one and only unsuccessful Veto of his administration. The law al-

lows US citizens to sue the governments of Foreign Nations who are designated as state sponsors of terrorism, thus potentially deterring that state’s support of terrorism in the future through the threat of financial consequences initiated independently by US citizens.

**332. KHAN SHAYKHUN CHEMICAL ATTACK:** The Khan Shaykhun chemical attack took place on 4 April 2017 on the town of Khan Shaykhun in the Idlib Governorate of Syria. The town was reported to have been struck by an airstrike by government forces followed by massive civilian chemical poisoning. The release of a toxic gas, which included sarin, or a similar substance, killed at least 74 people and injured more than 557, according to the opposition Idlib health authority. The attack was the deadliest use of chemical weapons in the Syrian civil war since the Ghouta chemical attack in 2013. The higher fatality count was due to the use of nerve agent rather than a respiratory agent, such as chlorine gas, which is easier to flee from. The OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism, the governments of the United States, United Kingdom, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, France, and Israel, as well as Human Rights Watch have attributed the attack to the forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The Syrian government said the attack was a “fabrication”. The Russian government claimed that the incident was staged. On 7 April 2017, the United States launched 59 cruise missiles at Shayrat Air Base, which U.S. intelligence claimed was the source of the attack.

**333. MBS:** Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, known colloquially as MbS, is the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. He also serves as First Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs and Minister of Defense, and was the world’s youngest office holder at the time of his appointment in June 2017. He is credited with many reforms, to include allowing women drivers, female singers at concerts, and an increased presence of women in the workforce. He has also limited the powers of the religious police. Counterbalancing this is the ongoing war in Yemen, and well as increased arrests of political opponents and members of the press, and perhaps authorizing the extrajudicial killing of journalist Jamal Ahmad Khashoggi inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul in October 2018 (see card #315).

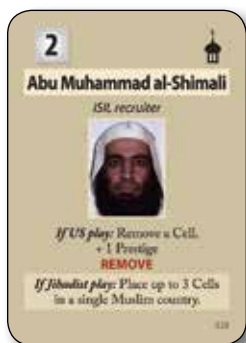
**334. NOVICHOK AGENT:** Novichok (“newcomer”/ “newbie”/ “novice, beginner or new boy”) is a series of nerve agents developed by the Soviet Union and Russia between 1971 and 1993. Russian scientists who developed the nerve agents claim they are the deadliest ever made, with some variants possibly five to eight times more potent than VX, and others up to ten times more potent than soman. They were designed as part of a Soviet program codenamed FOLIANT. Five Novichok variants are believed to have been adapted for military use. The most versatile is A-232 (Novichok-5). Novichok agents have never been used on the battlefield. The UK government determined that a Novichok agent was used in the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal in Salisbury, Wiltshire, England in March 2018. It was unanimously confirmed by four laboratories around the world, according to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Novichok was also involved in the poisoning of a British couple in Amesbury, Wiltshire, four months later, believed to have been discarded after the Salisbury attack. The attacks led to the death of one person, left three others in a critical condition from which they recovered, and briefly hospitalized a police officer. Russia denies producing or researching agents “under the title Novichok”.

**335. ROHINGYA GENOCIDE:** Perhaps the greatest Muslim refugee crisis outside of the Syrian and Yemen Civil Wars, the Rohingya are a mixed Muslim minority in Burma that has slowly been squeezed

into neighboring countries. The UN took notice in 2017 and tried to establish conditions for their return.

**336. US/NK SUMMIT:** U.S. President Donald Trump met in Singapore with North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un on 12 June 2018, in the first summit meeting between the leaders of the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). They signed a joint statement, agreeing to security guarantees for North Korea, new peaceful relations, reaffirmation of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, recovery of soldiers' remains, and follow-up negotiations between high-level officials. Immediately following the summit, Trump announced that the US would discontinue "provocative" joint military exercises with South Korea, and that he wishes to bring the U.S. Soldiers back home at some point, but he reinforced that's not part of the Singapore equation. On 1 August 2018, the U.S. Senate passed the military budget bill for 2019, which forbids the reduction of active USFK personnel below 22,000, significant removal of US forces is considered a non-negotiable item in denuclearization talks with the North. Originally this card was called Singapore Summit, and was removed after play, but then another summit occurred in Hanoi in Late February 2019 and the card had to be generalized and allowed to remain in the deck for future deals.

**337. US BORDER CRISIS:** There were a number of "self-made" crisis during the Trump administration that were exacerbated by his tweets or statements made during public rallies. The foremost among these during the 2018 midterm election was the scare he created related to an immigrant caravan traveling through Mexico, purportedly seeking asylum in the United States but which he believed might make a "mad dash" over the wall. His claim that this was an invasion that required the deployment of 5,000 US Troops is an example of a distraction that took US national leadership and the public off of the ongoing struggle in the Middle East. Similar distractions that demanded US national leadership during the time period of this expansion include several hurricanes, devastating fires in California, multiple legislative and judicial battles, and several other international events, some of which show-up as cards in this game expansion.



**338. ABU MUHAMMAD AL-SHIMALI:** Abu Muhammad al-Shimali started his Jihadist career with Al-Qaeda in Iraq in 2005, and then became known for his ability to rapidly recruit and travel foreign fighters through Turkey to Syria and other locations. He was made an Emir and on 29 September, 2015, the U.S. Department of the Treasury placed al-Shimali on its Specially Designated Nationals list for acting for or on behalf of ISIL. He is the subject of a \$5,000,000 bounty by the

Rewards for Justice Program. According to the Russian military, he was killed by one of its airstrikes, carried out by Su-34 jets, targeting a bunker in Deir ez-Zor, Syria, on 8 September 2017. Russia claimed the attack killed three further leaders and 40 ISIL fighters, and the attack may have been carried out by one of the largest non-nuclear bombs in existence, the Russian equivalent of the MOAB (card #262).

**339. ERDOĞAN DANCE:** Just as was portrayed in *Labyrinth: Awakening* (see card #205), Erdoğan has shown great skill in leaning both towards the west and the east at the same time. The game he

plays seems more focused on securing his position internally, but has implications for the larger region as a whole.

**340. EU BOLSTERS IRAN DEAL:** In negotiations with Iran, Europe frequently charted its own course, hindering a united Western resolve, but also allowing the ideas needed for a compromise position to percolate and perhaps take hold later on.

**341. GÜLEN MOVEMENT:** Based on the teaching of Islamist preacher Fethullah Gülen, this service organization has 3-6 million followers in 180 countries and promotes education and interfaith dialogue. Originally aligned with the Turkish Justice and Development Party (AKP), they helped propel President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan into power. A rift in 2012 caused the two movements to part ways. Then following the failed Turkish Coup attempt of 2016 (see card #349), Erdoğan had over 7,000 of its followers jailed, 20,000 of its educators stripped of their licenses, and requested the extradition of its founder from the US.

**342. GULMUROD KHALIMOV:** Was previously a Tajik and Islamist military commander and A lieutenant-colonel when commander of the police special forces of the Interior Ministry of Tajikistan until 2015, whereupon he defected to the ISIL, becoming one of their highest ranking recruits. In September 2016, he was reported to have been appointed as the minister of war in place of Abu Omar al-Shishani; his appointment had not been previously announced by ISIL for fears that he might be targeted in airstrikes by the anti-ISIL coalition. On 8 September 2017, Khalimov was allegedly killed during a Russian airstrike in Deir ez-Zor. The U.S. has not confirmed Khamilov's death and he remains the subject of a \$3,000,000 bounty by the Rewards for Justice Program.

**343. JCPOA:** The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), known commonly as the Iran Nuclear Deal, is an agreement on the nuclear program of Iran reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015 between Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany), and the European Union. On 13 October 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the United States would not make the certification provided for under U.S. domestic law, but stopped short of terminating the deal. On 30 April 2018, the United States and Israel stated that Iran did not disclose a past covert nuclear weapons program to the IAEA, which was required in the 2015 deal. IAEA inspectors spend 3,000 calendar days per year in Iran, installing tamper-proof seals and collecting surveillance camera photos, measurement data and documents for further analysis. IAEA Director Yukiya Amano stated in March 2018 that the organization has verified that Iran is implementing its nuclear-related commitments. On 8 May 2018, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the agreement. Following the U.S.'s withdrawal, the EU enacted an updated blocking statute on 7 August 2018 to nullify US sanctions on countries trading with Iran. The issue is still unresolved. See card #303 for an alternative ending.

**344. MEDIA MANIPULATION:** The image of 5 year old Omran Daqneesh (the Aleppo Boy) sitting bloodied in an ambulance after being dragged from the rubble of his home after it had been bombed, caused international outrage and was widely featured in newspapers and social media. It has been compared with photographs of Alan Kurdi, a child refugee of the Syrian Civil War who drowned trying to reach Europe. As is often the case in the modern media world within a Civil War environment with multiple factions, it's difficult to determine who the attackers were or if the event or

photo were staged to some degree. Nevertheless, the impact across the globe was immediate, and the death of his older brother from wounds suffered in the same attack, demonstrates the real-world consequences to families caught in an internal struggle such as the Syrian Civil War.

**345. OPERATION EUPHRATES SHIELD:** A cross-border operation by the Turkish military and Turkey-aligned Syrian opposition groups in the Syrian Civil War which led to the Turkish occupation of portions of northern Syria. Operations were carried out in the region between the Euphrates river to the east and the rebel-held area around Azaz to the west. The Turkish military and Turkey-aligned Syrian rebel groups, some of which used the Free Syrian Army label, fought against forces of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) as well as against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) from 24 August 2016. On 29 March 2017, the Turkish military officially announced that Operation Euphrates Shield was “successfully completed”. The Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said on the first day of the operation that it was aimed against both the ISIL and Syrian Kurdish “terror groups that threaten our country in northern Syria”. The objective to capture Manbij, under the de facto control of the Rojava administration, which had been promulgated by the Turkish president at the end of February 2017, remained unfulfilled. Other Turkish military incursions during the time period covered in this expansion took place in Iraq during the ISIL era and in the Kurdish homeland following the withdrawal of US forces there in October 2019.



**346. PAKISTANI INTELLIGENCE (ISI):** The Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is the premier intelligence agency of Pakistan, operationally responsible for gathering, processing, and analyzing national security information from around the world. As one of the principal members of the Pakistani intelligence community, the ISI reports to the Director-General and is primarily focused on providing intelligence for the Government of Pakistan.

The ISI consists primarily of serving military officers drawn on secondment from the three service branches of the Pakistan Armed Forces (Army, Air Force, and Navy) and hence the name “Inter-Services”. However, the agency also recruits many civilians. Since 1971, the ISI has been headed by a serving three-star general of the Pakistan Army, who is appointed by the Prime Minister on recommendation of the Chief of Army Staff, who recommends three officers for the job. Critics of the ISI say that it has become a state within a state and not accountable enough, and argue the institution should be more accountable to the President or the Prime Minister. After discovering it, the Pakistani Government disbanded the ISI ‘Political Wing’ in 2008.

**347. SWITCHING JERSEYS:** As the Revolution in Syria morphed into long-term Civil War, the fortunes of the various factions ebbed and flowed, and it was not uncommon for individual soldiers or even entire formations to switch loyalty to another faction with a better prospect. It has been estimated that the conflict in Syria has had between 400 and 600 different armed factions whose allegiance has varied over time from one banner to another. Even ISIL soldiers have been known to shed their black garb for another color.

**348. TRAVEL BAN:** Executive Order 13769, titled Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States, was

issued by US President Donald Trump on 27 January 2017, except to the extent it was blocked by various courts through March 16, 2017, when it was superseded by Executive Order 13780, which lowered the number of refugees to be admitted into the United States in 2017 to 50,000, suspended the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for 120 days, suspended the entry of Syrian refugees indefinitely, directed some cabinet secretaries to suspend entry of those whose countries do not meet adjudication standards under U.S. immigration law for 90 days, and included exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Homeland Security lists these countries as Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. Immediately, there were numerous protests and legal challenges. A nationwide temporary restraining order (TRO) was issued on 3 February, 2017 in the case *Washington v. Trump*, which was upheld by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on 9 February, 2017. Consequently, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) stopped enforcing portions of the order and the State Department re-validated visas that had been previously revoked. The order was criticized by members of Congress from both parties, universities, business leaders, Catholic bishops, top United Nations officials, a group of 40 Nobel laureates, Jewish organizations, 1,000 U.S. Diplomats who signed a dissent cable (see card #325), thousands of academics, and longstanding U.S. allies. Critics have accused the order of being a “Muslim ban” because the order only targeted Muslim-majority countries. Supporters of the ban responded that it only affected 13% of Muslims worldwide, that the countries were previously selected by the Obama administration as areas of concern for terrorist activity, and that the ban was only for 90 days while the administration developed “extreme vetting” procedures to reduce the probability that terrorists enter the United States from these countries. During its period of active enforcement, more than 700 travelers were detained and up to 60,000 visas were “provisionally revoked”. A third Travel Ban went into place on 24 September 2017, which added the following additional countries: Chad, North Korea, and Venezuela, thus notionally giving more of a “global threat” rather than “Muslim ban” tone.

**349. TURKISH COUP:** On 15 July 2016, a coup d’état was attempted in Turkey against state institutions, including the government and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The attempt was carried out by a faction within the Turkish Armed Forces that organized themselves as the Peace at Home Council. They attempted to seize control of several key places in Ankara, Istanbul, and elsewhere, but failed to do so after forces loyal to the state defeated them. The Council cited an erosion of secularism, elimination of democratic rule, disregard for human rights, and Turkey’s loss of credibility in the international arena as reasons for the coup. The government accused the coup leaders of being linked to the Gülen movement (see card #341).

**350. UN PEACE ENVOY:** On multiple occasions the UN or similar multilateral efforts have strived to end or at least reduce the violence in Syria and other nations in Civil War. These have met with minimal results, but it is never known if the efforts might bring about peace so the attempts continue until success is achieved.

**351. ADVANCED PERSISTENT THREAT (APT):** A stealthy computer network attack in which a person or group gains unauthorized access to a network and remains undetected for an extended period. The term’s definition was traditionally associated with nation-state sponsorship, but over the last few years there have been multiple examples of non-nation state groups conducting large-scale targeted intrusions for specific goals. An APT may have either business or political motives. APT processes require a high degree of covert-

ness over a long period of time. The “advanced” process signifies sophisticated techniques using malware to exploit vulnerabilities in systems. The “persistent” process suggests that an external command and control system is continuously monitoring and extracting data from a specific target. The “threat” process indicates human involvement in orchestrating the attack. APT usually refers to a group, such as a government, with both the capability and the intent to target, persistently and effectively, a specific entity. The term is commonly used to refer to cyber threats, in particular that of Internet-enabled espionage using a variety of intelligence gathering techniques to access sensitive information, but applies equally to other threats such as that of traditional espionage or attacks. Other recognized attack vectors include infected media, supply chain compromise, and human intelligence and deception. The purpose of these attacks is to place custom malicious code on one or multiple computers for specific tasks and to remain undetected for the longest possible period. Knowing the attacker artifacts, such as file names, can help a professional make a network-wide search to gather from all affected systems. Individuals, such as an individual adversary, are not usually referred to as an APT, as they rarely have the resources to be both advanced and persistent even if they are intent on gaining access to, or attacking, a specific target. Advanced Persistent Threat 33 & 34 (APT33 & APT34) are hacker groups identified as being supported by the government of Iran. APT28 “Fancy Bear” is a cyber espionage group that it is associated with the Russian military intelligence agency GRU and is credited with hacking Hillary Clinton’s emails along with other political or electoral manipulations. The primary response to APT’s is the US Cyber Command. According to the US Department of Defense (DoD), USCYBERCOM “plans, coordinates, integrates, synchronizes and conducts activities to: direct the operations and defense of specified Department of Defense information networks and; prepare to, and when directed, conduct full spectrum military cyberspace operations in order to enable actions in all domains, ensure US/Allied freedom of action in cyberspace and deny the same to our adversaries.”

**352. AL-BAGHDADI:** Abū Bakr al-Baghdadi is the leader of the Salafi jihadist militant terrorist organization ISIL. The group has been designated a terrorist organization by the United Nations, European Union and many individual states, while al-Baghdadi is considered a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. In June 2014, he was elected by the majlis al-shura (consultative council or Shura council), representing the ahl al-hall wal-aqd of the Islamic State as their caliph (see card #215). Since 2016, the U.S. State Department has offered a reward of up to \$25 million for information or intelligence leading to his capture or death. There have been over a dozen reports of his serious injury or death. On 23 August 2018, Al-Furqan, an ISIL media outlet, released an audio statement “Glad Tidings to the Steadfast” on the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice). The statement was made by al-Baghdadi, ending speculation about his purported death. Card #197 UNCONFIRMED was designed to reflect his seeming ability to “come back from the grave.”

**Update:** As this game expansion was preparing for print, al-Baghdadi was killed in a US Special Forces operation on 26 October 2019. The operation was code-named Kayla Mueller in memory of the US aid worker killed while held captive by him. Within a week, the shura council had elected Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi as the new Caliph of ISIL, suggesting the struggle would continue despite the Caliphate having minimal physical territory under its control. Within days, pledges of allegiance from sister organizations came in from across the globe.

**353. BOWLING GREEN MASSACRE:** A fictitious incident alluded to by U.S. Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway in interviews with Cosmopolitan and TMZ on January 29, 2017 and in an interview on the MSNBC news program Hardball with Chris Matthews on February 2, 2017. Conway cited it as justification for a travel and immigration ban from seven Muslim-majority countries enacted by United States President Donald Trump. However, no such massacre occurred. The day after the interview, Conway said she misspoke and had been referring to the 2011 arrest of two Iraqi refugees in Bowling Green, Kentucky, on charges including “attempting to provide material support to terrorists and to al-Qaeda in Iraq”. She stated that she had mentioned the incident because it led President Barack Obama to tighten immigration procedures for Iraqi citizens. Her inaccurate statement went viral and became the top trending topic on Twitter, with many tweets parodying it. A website was set up anonymously for the purpose of collecting donations for supposed victims. Facebook users used the site’s safety check feature to act as if the event were real. Mock vigils were held in Kentucky and New York in commemoration. It provoked widespread press reaction, with many relating it to Conway’s earlier use of the phrase “alternative facts” to describe false statements by White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer in the wake of the inauguration of Donald Trump.

**354. ELECTION MEDDLING:** Justice Department prosecutors claimed on 19 October 2018 that Elena Alekseevna Khusyaynova, of St. Petersburg, helped manage the finances of a hidden but powerful Russian social media effort aimed at spreading distrust for American political candidates and causing divisions on hot-button social issues like immigration and gun control. The criminal complaint against Khusyaynova alleges that Russians are using some of the same techniques to influence U.S. politics as they relied on ahead of the 2016 presidential election, methods laid bare by an investigation from special counsel Robert Mueller into possible coordination between Russia and Donald Trump’s campaign. There were also accusations for foreign influence over the 2018 US midterm elections. Of course, Special Counsel Robert Mueller had been investigating the presidential election for signs of meddling for nearly two years by then.

**355. FAKE NEWS:** As the Trump election approached and in its immediate aftermath, rumors abounded and it became difficult for citizens and international allies alike to determine where the US stood on certain positions. This lack of understanding was exacerbated through the increased use of social media to deliver news and opinion, and by adversaries contributing their own fair share of outrageous claims. The flavor text of course comes from the famous line spoken frequently by Peeta in the movie series the Hunger Games, while recovering from his brain washing while a prisoner in the Capital District.

**356. OPEC PRODUCTION CUT:** The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 15 nations, founded in 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela), and headquartered since 1965 in Vienna, Austria. As of September 2018, the 15 countries accounted for an estimated 44 percent of global oil production and 81.5 percent of the world’s “proven” oil reserves, giving OPEC a major influence on global oil prices that were previously determined by the so called “Seven Sisters” grouping of multinational oil companies. The stated mission of the organization is to “coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its member countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets,

in order to secure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers, and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.” The organization is also a significant provider of information about the international oil market. The current OPEC members are: Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia (the de facto leader), United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. Indonesia is a former member. By continent, two are South American, seven African, and six are Asian (Middle East). Two-thirds of OPEC’s oil production and reserves are in its six Middle-Eastern countries that surround the oil-rich Persian Gulf. With the advent of Fracking (see card #155), there has been a stabilization of global oil prices over the last several years, as the US shale sector ramps up production as soon as prices increase enough for them to be profitable. The result is that OPEC was incentivized to cut production in 2017 and 2018 to keep global crude prices from falling too low. Compare with *Twilight Struggle*, card #61.

**357. PEACE DIVIDEND:** Too a degree, both sides in this global struggle have desired to shift the conflict from direct engagement to something else. The reduced frequency of global attacks and US Troop deployments since 2017 have provided an opportunity for a true dividend in terms of human capital preservation, though the adversarial relationship continues by other means. Some countries such as Libya, Syria, and more recently, Yemen, have not benefited at all and are still suffering for choices made during and immediately after the Arab Spring (2010-2012).

**358. POLITICAL ISLAMISM/PAN ARAB NATIONALISM:** At times, especially in its struggle against Israel, the peoples of the Arab countries have united as one body, but more often than not, the families and tribes that are the basic political unit of Arab culture have had conflict amongst each other that inhibits creating a multi-national front against the Western agenda. Arab flags usually include the color green, which is a symbol of Islam as well as an emblem of purity, fertility and peace. Common colors in Arab flags are red, black, white and green (Pan-Arab colors); common symbols include stars, crescents and the Shahada. The Arab League Flag is depicted on this event card.

**359. QUICK WIN/BAD INTEL:** Most US Regime Change Operations take far longer than expected to resolve, but in some cases (such as in Panama in 1989), the seeds of lasting results are planted fairly quickly.

**360. US CHINA TRADE WAR:** The international relationship between the People’s Republic of China and the United States of America is quite strong yet complex. Both countries have an extremely extensive economic partnership, and a great amount of trade between the two countries necessitates somewhat positive political relations, yet significant issues exist. It is a relationship of economic cooperation, hegemonic rivalry in the Pacific, and mutual suspicion over the other’s intentions. Therefore, each nation has adopted a wary attitude regarding the other as a potential adversary whilst at the same time being an extremely strong economic partner. It has been described by world leaders and academics as the world’s most important bilateral relationship of the 21st century. As of 2018, the United States has the world’s largest economy and China has the second largest, although China has a larger GDP when measured by PPP. Relations between the two countries have generally been stable with some periods of open conflict, most notably during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Currently, China and the United States have mutual political, economic, and security interests, including but not limited to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, although there are unresolved concerns relating to the role of democracy in government in China and human rights in both respective countries. China is the largest foreign creditor of the United States. The two countries remain in dispute over territorial issues in the South China Sea (see card #318). Relations with China began under George Washington, leading to the 1845 Treaty of Wangxia. The U.S. was allied to the Republic of China during the Pacific War, but broke off relations with China for 25 years when the communist government took over, until Richard Nixon’s 1972 visit to China (see *Twilight Struggle*, card #71). Since Nixon, every successive U.S. president has toured China. Relations with China have strained under Barack Obama’s Pivot to the Pacific strategy, U.S. support for Japan in the Senkaku Islands dispute, as well as Donald Trump’s threats to classify the country as a “currency manipulator” as part of the Trade War started in 2018.

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

**ARF:** Alert Resolution Flowchart (Solitaire Bot)

**AQ:** Al-Qaeda

**BCA:** Budget Control Act

**CIA:** Central Intelligence Agency

**COIN:** Counterinsurgency

**DRM:** net Die Roll modifiers (Solitaire Bot)

**EvO:** Event or Operations (Solitaire Bot)

**GTMO:** Guantanamo Bay

**GWOT:** Global War on Terror

**IR:** Islamist Rule

**ISIL:** Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

**ISIL-KP:** Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – Khorasan Province

**JSP:** Jihad Success Possible (Solitaire Bot)

**MILF:** Moro Islamic Liberation Front

**MOAB:** Mother of All Bombs

**NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization

**NPT:** Non-Proliferation Treaty

**OpP:** Operations Priorities (Solitaire Bot)

**Ops:** Operations

**PAC:** Play Aid Card(s)

**PAR:** Post-Alert Resolution (Solitaire Bot)

**POTUS:** President of the United States

**ROE:** Rules of Engagement

**SECDEF:** Secretary of Defense

**SFAB:** Security Force Assistance Brigade

**SOCOM:** Special Operations Command

**TandM:** Troops + Militia (Solitaire Bot)

**UAV:** Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

**UNSCR:** United Nations Security Council Resolution

**WMD:** Weapons of Mass Destruction

## Card List

#	Title	Ops	Assoc.	Type	#	Title	Ops	Assoc.	Type
241	ABDEL FATTAH EL-SISI	1	US	R	290	UYGHUR NATIONALISM	1	Jhd	R
242	AVENGER	1	US		291	VEHICLE-RAMMING ATTACKS	1	Jhd	
243	BACKLASH	1	US	BC	292	AMAQ NEWS AGENCY	2	Jhd	
244	FOREIGN INTERNAL DEFENSE	1	US		293	ATTEMPTED COUP	2	Jhd	
245	GREEN MOVEMENT 2.0	1	US	BC	294	BARCELONA BOMBS	2	Jhd	R
246	HOLIDAY SURPRISE	1	US		295	BLACK GOLD	2	Jhd	
247	NADIA MURAD	1	US	BC	296	BOTCHED YEMENI RAID	2	Jhd	R
248	PATRIOTIC ARAB DEMOCRACIES MOVEMENT	1	US	BC	297	EARLY EXIT	2	Jhd	R, M
249	SAUDI AIR STRIKES	1	US		298	FALSE FLAG ATTACKS	2	Jhd	
250	SPECIAL FORCES	1	US		299	FOREIGN FIGHTERS RETURN	2	Jhd	R
251	TRUMP TWEETS	1	US	M	300	GOING UNDERGROUND	2	Jhd	
252	TRUMP TWEETS	1	US	M	301	GREEN ON BLUE	2	Jhd	
253	TRUMP TWEETS	1	US	M	302	IMPERIAL OVERSTRETCH	2	Jhd	
254	US EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM	1	US	R	303	IRANIAN WITHDRAWAL	2	Jhd	R, [2016]
255	WESTERN ARMS SALES	1	US		304	LOOSE CHEMICALS	2	Jhd	R
256	WHITE HELMETS	1	US		305	PRESIDENTIAL WHISTLEBLOWER	2	Jhd	
257	WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISM	1	US		306	PUBLIC DEBATE	2	Jhd	L
258	75TH RANGER REGIMENT	2	US		307	RUSSIAN SUBTERFUGE	2	Jhd	
259	ARAB NATO	2	US		308	BATTLE OF MARAWI CITY	3	Jhd	R
260	IMRAN KHAN	2	US	BC	309	EASTER BOMBINGS	3	Jhd	R
261	INTEL COMMUNITY	2	US		310	FOREVER WAR	3	Jhd	
262	MOAB	2	US		311	GAZA BORDER PROTESTS	3	Jhd	
263	OPERATION TIDAL WAVE II	2	US		312	HAMA OFFENSIVE	3	Jhd	
264	PERSONAL SECURITY CONTRACTORS	2	US		313	HAYAT TAHIR AL-SHAM	3	Jhd	R, CC
265	POPULAR MOBILIZATION FORCES	2	US		314	JIHADIST AFRICAN SAFARI	3	Jhd	R
266	PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW	2	US		315	KHASHOGGI CRISIS	3	Jhd	R
267	THIRD OFFSET STRATEGY	2	US		316	MARTYRDOM OPERATION	3	Jhd	
268	TRUMP TRIP	2	US	BC	317	QATARI CRISIS	3	Jhd	R, M
269	AIR AMERICA	3	US		318	SOUTH CHINA SEA CRISIS	3	Jhd	M
270	DEEP STATE	3	US	R	319	TEHRAN-BEIRUT LAND CORRIDOR	3	Jhd	M, R
271	EXPANDED ROE	3	US	L	320	TRIBAL LEADERS WITHDRAW SUPPORT	3	Jhd	R
272	FIRE AND FURY	3	US	R	321	UNGOVERNED SPACES	3	Jhd	CC
273	FULLY RESOURCED COIN	3	US	L	322	AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL	1	U	BC
274	GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL ACCORD	3	US	BC	323	BLASPHEMY	1	U	
275	OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE	3	US		324	BREXIT	1	U	M, R
276	POPULISM/EUROSCEPTICISM	3	US	M	325	DISSENT CHANNEL	1	U	
277	REGIME CHANGE POLICY	3	US		326	FILIBUSTER/NUCLEAR OPTION	1	U	
278	SIEGE OF MOSUL	3	US	L	327	GAZA AID	1	U	
279	SFABs	3	US	M	328	HAFIZ SAEED KHAN	1	U	R
280	SUNNI-SHIA RIFT	3	US	R	329	HAMZA BIN LADEN	1	U	R
281	DRONE SWARMS	1	Jhd		330	IRGC	1	U	
282	EXECUTIVE ORDER 13492	1	Jhd	R	331	JASTA	1	U	R
283	LONE WOLF	1	Jhd		332	KHAN SHAYKHUN CHEMICAL ATTACK	1	U	R
284	MANCHESTER BOMBING	1	Jhd	R	333	MbS	1	U	
285	MOHAMED MORSI SUPPORTERS	1	Jhd	R	334	NOVICHOK AGENT	1	U	R
286	PALESTINIAN PEACE	1	Jhd		335	ROHINGYA GENOCIDE	1	U	
287	SAYYED HASSAN NASRALLAH	1	Jhd		336	US/NK SUMMIT	1	U	M
288	SOLDIERS OF THE CALIPHATE	1	Jhd		337	US BORDER CRISIS	1	U	L
289	STRAIT OF HORMUZ	1	Jhd	L	338	ABU MUHAMMAD AL-SHIMALI	2	U	CC, R

## Card List

#	Title	Ops	Assoc.	Type	#	Title	Ops	Assoc.	Type
339	ERDOĞAN DANCE	2	U		350	UN PEACE ENVOY	2	U	BC
340	EU BOLSTERS IRAN DEAL	2	U	R, L, [2016]	351	ADVANCED PERSISTENT THREAT (APT)	3	U	
341	GÜLEN MOVEMENT	2	U	M	352	AL-BAGHDADI	3	U	CC, R, M
342	GULMUROD KHALIMOV	2	U	R	353	BOWLING GREEN MASSACRE	3	U	BC
343	JCPOA	2	U	R, [2016]	354	ELECTION MEDDLING	3	U	AUTO
344	MEDIA MANIPULATION	2	U		355	FAKE NEWS	3	U	L
345	OPERATION EUPHRATES SHIELD	2	U		356	OPEC PRODUCTION CUT	3	U	L
346	PAKISTANI INTELLIGENCE (ISI)	2	U		357	PEACE DIVIDEND	3	U	
347	SWITCHING JERSEYS	2	U		358	POLITICAL ISLAMISM/PAN ARAB NATIONALISM	3	U	R, M
348	TRAVEL BAN	2	U	M	359	QUICK WIN/BAD INTEL	3	U	
349	TURKISH COUP	2	U	R	360	US CHINA TRADE WAR	3	U	M

### KEY:

US = US-associated Event

Jhd = Jihadist-associated Event

U = Unassociated Event

M = Mark

R = Remove

L = Lapsing

AUTO = Automatically Triggered Event

CC = Creates Caliphate

BC = Blocked by Caliphate

[2016] = Scenario(s) card is in use

## Glossary and Index

**Africa:** All countries south of the Mediterranean Sea and west of the Red sea including Egypt, Mali and Nigeria

**Attrition:** An end of turn procedure to see if either side losses forces in each Civil War country (11.2.5)

**Awakening Marker:** A representation of that portion of the populace of a Muslim country that desires a change towards Good Governance (11.1)

**Caliphate:** One or more adjacent Muslim Countries containing a Caliphate Capital or Caliphate Country marker and all of which are in a condition of Islamist Rule, Civil War or Regime Change (11.3.8)

**Civil War:** The condition of a Muslim country in which peaceful protest has turned into organized armed conflict through event play (11.2.1)

**Convergence:** The random spread of an Awakening or Reaction marker immediately following a country becoming Good or Islamist Rule (11.1.8)

**Country Mat:** A map overlay used to designate a new country or changes to an existing country (11.3.3)

**Discard:** Placing a card into the discard pile

**Disengagement:** The removal of an Awakening or Reaction marker due to the change of Governance towards Good or Islamist rule (not changes in Alignment toward Ally or Adversary) (11.1.5)

**End of Turn Sequence:** The steps to be followed after the last card play of a turn (11.3.6)

**Ineligible:** A country that is unable to receive that type of piece or marker, for example Troops in a non-Muslim country or Awakening/Reaction markers in a non-Muslim, Civil War, Good or Islamist Rule country

**Jihadist Personality Card:** An Unassociated event card named after a person and most likely with a portrait which if played by the US will result in its removal from the game (15.2.7)

**Militia:** Irregular forces that are either supporting Good Governance or resisting the imposition of Jihadist will (11.2.4)

**Movable:** Per solitaire Bot instructions, any Cell that is not the last Cell in an Auto-Recruit country when there are two or fewer Auto-Recruit countries with a Cell (see 12.3.9)

**Off Map Box:** A location where US Troops are placed temporarily until the condition of their return is fulfilled (11.3.4)

**Polarization:** The addition of either Awakening or Reaction markers to a Muslim country at the end of a turn based on the progress of movements within that country (11.1.7)

**Random Country Tables:** Used to determine the random selection of a Muslim or Shi-Mix country during Convergence, the use of Bots or via Event instructions (11.3.9 & 11.3.10)

**Reaction Marker:** A representation of that portion of the populace of a Muslim country that desires a change towards Islamist Rule (11.1)

**Remove(d):** Taking pieces from the map and placing them on the Track, or placing a card out of play to the Removed Cards pile, or placing a WMD Plot out of the game, or returning markers to the supply

**Select:** Choosing a country via Bot instructions or choosing the value that a country will take by event play, such as selecting a country to become Hard, or choosing a specific card from the discard or removed cards pile

**Set:** Adjusting a country to a predetermined value by event play, such as set to Neutral

**Shift:** Adjusting a value by a predetermined amount, such as shift 1 box toward Adversary

**Unplayable:** An Event that cannot or will not be played by a solitaire Bot; instead, the card is used for Operations

**WMD Alert:** The removal of a placed, available or potentially available WMD Plot by US Operations or Event play thus granting +1 Prestige (11.3.1)

## Labyrinth Rules of Thumb (Updated)

By Trevor Bender

Every game has a handful of rules of which an accurate understanding is essential for successful play, but which are easily forgotten between sessions or may not be listed on the Play Aid Cards (PACs). The purpose of this reference is to give the *Labyrinth* series player a source to turn to as a refresher of these key, but obscure rules. They are presented in numerical order, but can also be scanned by topic.

**4.8.4 Cadres:** Place a Cadre marker when the last Cell in a country is Removed via Disrupt or Removed, replaced or repositioned by Event, but not by Jihad or Travel. Remove the Cadre marker any time a Cell is placed from the Funding Track into that country, but not if a Cell Travels to a country with Cadre. Like a Cell, Cadres enable recruiting (8.2.2) and a country must have one or the other in order to recruit, including in auto-recruit situations (Islamist Rule, Regime Change, Civil War and TRAINING CAMPS).

**4.9.4 Initial Test:** An Unmarked country generally has no pieces or markers in it. If that country is subject to an Event or Operations (even failed Travel), Test the country. Testing would also be triggered by the placement by Event of Awakening, Reaction, or Cells. A country is not tested if it is simply occupied by an Aid or Besieged Regime markers, or by Militia. A country which Tests at a higher governance value than the Ops card played for a US Operation would result in no additional action possible (4.9.5). Any instruction to Test a country only applies if the country is Unmarked.

**5.2.7 Reserves:** At the end of each Turn (hand of cards), any Reserves are lost (set to 0) (N/A to Bots). When using Reserves, all must be used; move the marker to zero even if there is a balance.

**6.2.2 Rules Conflicts:** Generally Event text supersedes rules. For Example, Events allow the placement of Cells from the Jihadist Funding track regardless of the position of the Jihadist Funding marker (4.7.4.2). The last played Event, if still in effect, will supersede previous Events if there is a conflict. In some cases, a rule will not be superseded by an event, such as being prohibited from placing Militia in non-Muslim countries (11.2.4), and these are spelled out in the *Labyrinth: Awakening* rulebook.

**6.2.4 All that Applies:** When an event with multiple effects occurs, implement all that apply, ignoring any effects that do not apply (exception 11.3.11 and 11.3.12).

**7.1.1 US Operations Value Requirement:** US Ops cost equals governance value of the target country.

**7.2.1.2 War of Ideas:** WoI receives the +1 modifier for at least 1 adjacent Muslim country at Good Ally; adjacent non-Muslim Good countries do not provide the modifier (they do not track Alignment so are not at "Ally" in game terms). Remember there is a -1 modifier when attempting to shift to Good.

**7.2.2.3 & 8.4.3.2 Aid and Besieged Regime:** Remove all these markers from a country as it shifts to Good or to Islamist Rule. Remove 1 Aid marker per successful Jihad roll or successful Plot resolution roll.

**8.1.1 Jihadist Operations Value:** Jihadist player may only chose one Operation type but may attempt it equal to the Ops value of the card played and in multiple countries with success being based on the Governance of the target country(s). All attempts must be pre-designated before rolling any.

**8.1.2 Simultaneous:** When conducting multiple Operations of the same type or conducting multiple effects from an Event, such as placing multiple Cells or Awakening/Reaction markers in different destinations, announce in advance all occurrences, then execute them all simultaneously, including any die rolls required for success.

**11.1.5 Disengagement:** Remove an Awakening marker (or a Reaction marker) each time a country improves (or degrades its) Governance. Changes in Alignment have no effect.

**11.1.7 Polarization:** During the end of turn census, add 1 Awakening or Reaction marker if you have 2 more than your opponent. If you have 3+ more, then shift Alignment one direction to your side. If already at the end of the Alignment track, improve or degrade governance one level instead (implement Disengagement 11.1.5 if needed).

**11.1.8 Convergence:** If you have a country go Good (or Islamist Rule), then immediately place an Awakening (Reaction) marker via the Random Muslim country Table (11.3.9).

**11.2.5 Attrition:** In Civil War countries, during the end of turn census, inflict one hit on your opponent's pieces for every 6 Troops + Militia (or Cells) that you have there. For any fraction less than 6, roll a die and if less than or equal to the number present, inflict a hit. Each US hit removes 2 Cells (if Troops or Advisors present) or 1 if Militia are alone. Each Jihadist hit removes 1 Troops or Militia. Pieces are removed by the owning player.

**11.3.11 Laundry List Cards:** Certain cards, such as OBAMA DOCTRINE, allow a player to choose more than one item from a list. In these cases, the choices must all be different.

**11.3.12 "OR":** Certain cards allow a player to choose one or another effect. Once the choice is made, the un-chosen effect on the opposite side of the bolded OR is ignored for this play of the card.

**11.3.14 Remove Additional Markers:** Each time a Muslim country becomes Good Governance (7.2.1.1), or Islamist Rule (8.4.4), remove all Regime Change, Civil War, Besieged Regime, Aid, Awakening, Reaction, and Caliphate (unless Islamist Rule) markers, and Militia Pieces; Cells, Troops, Cadre, Events, Plots and unavailable WMD remain, unless indicated otherwise.



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